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A  
HISTORY  
OF  
FARMINGTON, Me.

FROM ITS SETTLEMENT TO 1846.

BY THOMAS PARKER.

Farmington, Me.

J. S. SWIFT, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER.

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# HISTORY OF FARMINGTON.

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## CHAPTER I.

*Situation—Sandy-River—Wilson's-Stream—Davis'-Mill-Stream—Fairbanks'-Mill-Stream—Ponds—Blunts'-Brook—Beaver-Dam-Brook—Fish—Game—Hunters—Meadows—Soil—Timber—Productions—Lime—Scenery—Roads—Public Buildings—Bridges—Common.*

FARMINGTON, the shire town of the County of Franklin, is situated in that section of the State of Maine, commonly called the Sandy-River, situated thirty miles from Augusta, the capital of the state, and about seventy miles from the city of Portland something east of north; being bounded west by the towns of Wilton and Temple, and north by the towns of Strong and Industry, east by the towns of Industry and New-Sharon and south by the town of Chesterville; It is watered by the Sandy-River which takes its rise in the highlands which divide the waters of the Kennebec from those of the Androscoggin being known as Mt. Abraham, Saddle-Back and Mt. Blue, being some of the highest elevations in the state. The westerly or principal branch takes its rise from a small pond south of Saddle-Back-Mountain, of the same name, passing from thence in a southeasterly direction through the easterly part of Letter E, and Madrid to Phillips, where it unites with the east-

tion of mills. Few if any now get above the falls at the lower extremity of the town. Alewives were formerly taken as high up as Titcomb's-Mills on the Davis'-Mill-Stream, but have now become extinct in this region. The salmon-trout and pickerel are the principal fish now taken from the Sandy-River or its tributary waters, and with which many of the ponds and streams abound.

-The streams and forests originally abounded with beaver, otter, sable, and various kinds of fur which afforded liberal encouragement to hunters. Moose were taken in great abundance in the winter season. Prior to the examination of the Sandy-River valley in 1776, for the purpose of making a settlement, it was unknown to any civilized people excepting those who explored it for the purpose of hunting, for which purpose a Mr. Stewart Foster and a Mr. Ephraim Allen of Winthrop made a stand on the Sandy-River through the winter of 1780. They encamped near where the Fairbanks'-Bridge now stands in a camp belonging to Pierpole, (he being absent.) They killed a large quantity of moose and at the opening of the spring constructed a canoe of their skins, in which they went down the river, with their effects, to Hallowell.\*

There are but few natural meadows in Farmington, and these are small, but such as they were they afforded great assistance to the early settlers in wintering their stock. The intervalles and forests served them for pasture in the summer season.

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\* The game in the Sandy-River valley attracted the attention of the Indians, and hence they gave the river the name MUS-SA-LUN-SQUIT, which they subsequently, in their quaint English, translated to the whites, as meaning—"A place where you can go and get plenty of moose, deer, fur &c.—whole canoe full;"—literally "*Good Hunting Ground.*"



The soil is generally good and fertile and more easily cultivated than that of the state generally, especially the intervalles and the uplands adjacent to them, though some of the highlands, particularly in the north-west section of the town, are somewhat rocky and hard to cultivate, but their superior quality for grazing and the raising of stock well recompenses the labor of the husbandman.

The natural growth is that of the several kinds of maple, birch, beach, ash, elm, bass, pine, hemlock, spruce, fir, cedar, with some oak on the highlands, and hackmetack in the low lands. The apple-tree and many kinds of fruit are cultivated with success.

The soil is productive of most kinds of grain and vegetables, the lowlands being best adapted to the growth of corn and the highlands to that of wheat.

Lime-rock has been discovered in many places in this and the adjacent towns, but those who have attempted to manufacture it into lime have had but little success, and owing to its inferior quality perhaps it may never be profitable for mechanical purposes.

The extent of the intervalles, the gentle rise of the uplands, the convenient ridges into which it is thrown, the superior quality of the soil, and the varied natural forests with which the town abounds, present one of the most pleasing prospects in the state, and one which perhaps is not surpassed by any.\*

There are two leading county-roads through the town, passing longitudinally north and south—one on each

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\* The editor of the Gospel Banner, who has been somewhat of a traveler, refers to a spot a little above Farmington-Falls, as affording one of the two most magnificent landscape views he has ever beheld. It is something of a compliment to the taste of the now venerable Stephen Titcomb Esq. that the spot in which his axe first disturbed the slumbers of the primeval forest is embraced in the foreground of this view.

side of the river, which with various others, leading in various directions, all centering in, and passing the center of the town, take a large amount of travel. The great roads that pass north and south accommodate most of the travel from the interior towns to Hallowell and Augusta the principal market for this part of the state. Much of the business, however, which was formerly done in these towns is now done in Farmington.

There are two bridges across the Sandy-River supported by the town of Farmington and the most of another supported in connection with Chesterville. The public buildings consist of an academy, a court-house, jail and county building for the several offices, five meeting-houses and twenty-two school-houses. The common, a public square in the center of the village, encircled by rows of the rock or sugar-maple, forms a pleasant and agreeable prospect, and adds much to the beauty and convenience of the village.

## CHAPTER II.

*First Exploration—The Exploring Party—Their Route—Indians—The party return and resolve to settle—Again repair to the "Great Intervale" in bateaux—Route—Commence Clearing—Reuben Colburn and his Associates—Meeting of the Company—Kennebec Purchase—Survey—Conditions of Settlement—Mills.*

THE tract of land now comprised within the territorial limits of the town of Farmington was first explored, with a view of settlement, by Stephen Titcomb, Robert Gower, James Henry, Robert Alexander, and James Macdonnell, in the summer of 1776. They were piloted by Thomas Wilson who had previously explored the region as a hunter. The whole party were from Topsham in the county of Lincoln, and they came in canoes up the Kennebec, as far as Hallowell, which then contained but three or four houses and some fish-stores. From Hallowell they proceeded by land over a bad road, through a very sparsely settled tract, to a Rumford Smith's, just above the present site of Lane's oil-mill, his being the last house. From this place they proceeded by a compass, a west-north-west course, supposing this would enable them to strike at or near the "Great-Intervale." They struck the Sandy-River at New-Sharon-Falls, near where the mills now stand—crossed the river, and traveled along its northern bank to Farmington-Falls, where they found two Indian camps, (Pierpole's and Phillips'), and some Indian-corn and potatoes growing.\*

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\* They found a considerable tract of land cleared at the Falls, extending from the upper part of the present site of the village, down the river to the

From the Falls they proceeded up by the side of the river about one mile, to the south-east line of the farm known by the name of the Tufts-Farm, now owned by Samuel Daggett. Here they stripped some bass-wood bark, for a substitute for a chain, and commenced measuring off lots for farms, which they made one hundred rods in width. They measured off six lots, which they divided by lot among them. After prosecuting their discoveries up the river they concluded to return to Topsham, procure tools and return to commence clearing in two weeks from the time of concluding this agreement.

At the time appointed they prepared themselves with bateaux and came up the Kennebec to the Cobosconconte stream, (Now Gardiner,)—carried their bateaux round the falls, and followed the stream till they came to the Indian Great-Carrying-Place, which leads to Winthrop Great-Pond, passed up this pond to South-Pond, near Winthrop-Factory, carried to the pond near Readfield-Corner, proceeded up Bog-Stream to Greely's-Pond, and carried one mile to Crotchet-Pond. From Crotchet-Pond they carried two miles to a pond west of the

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edge of New-Sharon. The remains of a considerable Indian village and of a fort enclosing about an acre of land, were to be seen. The fort was situated near the center of the tract now covered by the Falls-Village. The Indian burying ground has since been discovered in digging the cellar to Thomas Croswell's dwelling-house. A number of skeletons were found in an upright position. Tradition states that many years before, a boy by the name of Knights was taken in the town of Gorham, and carried to the Sandy-River, where he was kept through the winter. The camp of the Indians was on the "Great-Intervale." near the spot first improved by Mr. Titcomb. In the spring the boy was left with the squaws while the Indians again repaired to Gorham to obtain scalps and more prisoners. Young Knights found a way of escape, and, passing within sight of the Indians, arrived in Gorham in season to give notice of their approach, which warning probably prevented an inhuman massacre. Tomahawks, arrow-heads and other Indian relics have been discovered in different parts of the town.



Ridge in Chesterville and followed its waters down the Little-Norridgewoock to Sandy-River.

They felled some trees on the lots they had before selected, and, after exploring the country to a greater extent than they had done in their previous tour, descended the Sandy-River to the Kennebec, and sailed down the Kennebec to their homes in Topsham.

From this time this company, with others, continued to make improvements in different parts of the town, till 1781, when the first families moved into it.

About this time another company came from the vicinity of Hallowell, to explore with a view of making a settlement on the Sandy-River, who, with the former company, formed an association in Hallowell, Dec. 17, 1777, known by the name of "The Proprietors of a Township on Sandy-River," now commonly known as the firm of "*Reuben Colburn and his Associates.*"

At their meeting Ephraim Cowan was chosen clerk and arrangements were made for laying out a road to the township. James Cowan and Moses Aires were chosen a committee to petition to the General-Court for the road. The petitioners, however, failed at this time to procure a grant, in consequence of its having been supposed that the township would fall within the limits of the Plymouth-Claim.

In the following season, July 28, 1778, they had a meeting to petition to the Plymouth-Company, but as doubts respecting the title were entertained, they concluded not to petition, but made arrangements to open the road laid out the previous winter, from John Stearns' land to the mill-stream on which Titcomb's-Mills now stand.

The meetings of the associates were generally holden at Amos Pollard's, in that part of Hallowell now

Augusta, and their business was conducted by a clerk, treasurer and a committee of three, who were chosen annually, and their expenses were paid by assessments on the rights in the township.

After some verbal communications from Mr. Bowdoin, chairman of the committee of the proprietors of the Kennebec-Purchase from the colony of New-Plymouth, it was voted, at a meeting held on the 24th of May, 1779, to make some proposals to Mr. Bowdoin on condition that he would give warrantee deeds, and Mr. Weston was chosen to make the propositions.

It appears by a memorandum signed in Boston, Oct. 4, 1779, by James Bowdoin, Daniel Jeffries, James Hewing and John Hancock, and from an alteration annexed, dated at Boston, March 3, 1780, signed by Henry Allen, proprietor's-clerk, that the following arrangement was made with the committee of the proprietors of the Kennebec-Purchase, by Reuben Colburn and his Associates, viz:—

That the associates should cause a survey to be taken of all that tract of land west of Kennebec-River and north of the southerly line of Settler's-Lot No. 70, in the town of Vassalborough, now Sidney, and south of the mouth of Sandy-River, and extending westerly fifteen miles; viz:—The course of Kennebec-River to be taken, then, commencing at the mouth of Sandy-River, to run a due west course fifteen miles, there to make a corner marked K. 15 M.; thence southerly two miles; thence, varying the courses so as to conform to the courses taken on the Kennebec-River, until it strikes the Little-Norridgewock stream, there to be marked K. 15 M. to show that it is 15 miles from Kennebec-River, on a west-north-west course; and from thence to the first mentioned bound. The ponds and rivers to be

laid down on the field-book, together with the growth of timber on the land and the quality of the soil, and every thing of a remarkable nature, including the road laid out to the township which was to be surveyed from the rear of this tract of land, and the line of which was to commence at the junction of the Little-Norridgewock with the Wilson-Stream—from thence to follow down the Wilson-Stream to Sandy-River, thence down the river about half-a-mile, from thence a due north course until it should intersect the fifteen-mile-line running west from Kennebec-River, making the town about ten miles in its longest extent.

The township was to be laid out in lots of two hundred acres and two hundred and fifty acres, alternately, that is, first a lot of two hundred acres, then a lot of two hundred and fifty acres, next another lot of two hundred acres, and so on, through the whole town, except on Sandy-River, where all the lots were to be of equal extent—sixty rods on the river—and not to exceed one hundred and fifty acres; the whole to be laid out with as much equality as possible.

One of the one hundred and fifty acre lots was to be for the first settled minister, and one of the two hundred acre lots to be for the use of the ministry, both to be marked M. The one hundred and fifty acre lots on the river were to be marked, first, P. for proprietors, next S. for settlers, and so on, alternately, and the two hundred and fifty acre lots were to be marked P. for proprietors, and the two hundred acre lots, S. for settlers; first laying out a lot on the mill-stream for encouraging the building of a grist-mill and a saw-mill for the accommodation of the inhabitants, not to exceed one hundred and fifty rods in width and to run three hundred rods back from the river, if there should be room.

An exact plan of the town was to be made out, and the plan, with the field-book to be returned to the clerk of the proprietors of the Kennebec-Purchase, by the tenth of the following May. The survey was to be at the expense of the associates, if they were admitted as settlers on certain conditions.

When the survey was completed, and the return made according to directions, the committee concluded to recommend to the owners to admit the applicants as settlers in the township. They were to obtain a written license from the owners, and, with such as might associate with them, each select a settler's lot, to which he was to be entitled after a residence of two years, with the condition that he should build a house not less than twenty feet square, and seven feet in the stud, clear five acres of land within three years, and actually live on the premises himself during three years, or in case of his death, his heirs or some one under them to complete the term of residence,—he or some one under him likewise to reside on the premises seven years longer, and work upon the ministerial lot, or on a house for the public worship of God, two days in a year for ten years, when required by the committee of the proprietors or their agent—and also two days each year on the public roads till the lands should be incorporated into a town; each one likewise agreeing to submit in public affairs to the decision of the majority of the settlers at any public meeting regularly called.

The settlers were to petition the owners, and the plan was to be made and returned by the 10th of May, 1780. It appears that the survey was completed and that returns were made, agreeably to directions, in June, 1780, by Joseph North, Esq.

But as it was considered somewhat doubtful whether



the town would fall within the limits of the Plymouth-Claim, no further measures were taken to obtain a title to the lands till after the Revolutionary-War, when the boundaries were settled between the State and the Plymouth-Company.

A front-lot and a back-lot making a right in the town, the settlers chose a committee to couple them according to quality, and draw them by lot, on the 17th of May, 1780. Some, however, who had commenced improvements on particular lots were excepted from this mode of division, and permitted to retain the lots they had before selected. The result of drawing the lots was recorded in the book kept by the clerk of the associates, and agreeably to a vote of the associates, all conveyances of lots were to be recorded by their clerk in his book, which was admitted as evidence in the trial of the action, "Simeon Pane *vs.* Thomas and Timothy Johnson," in the Supreme-Judicial-Court, at the October term 1816, by the court directing depositions to be taken of some persons who were present when the lands were divided and the lots drawn, and also that the deposition of Solomon Adams Esq. should be taken *in perpetuum* identifying said book, and confirming the records of said book—he being the last clerk of the associates. This being done agreeably to the direction of the court, and the deposition recorded in the Registry-of-Deeds for Kennebec-County, and annexed to the book, it was directed that it should be lodged in the town-clerk's office for the use of the town, or any person who may have occasion to use it in defence of his title.

In July, 1780, measures were taken to lay out and open a road from the head of Chandler's-Pond to this town, and to build a bridge over the Little-Norridgewock stream, and in the year following a contract was made to

have one built over Wilson's-Stream. In 1782 a vote was passed to have the survey completed, as soon as might be, the side lines of the lots not having been run when the plan of the town was made, the lots only having been fronted on the river, with the corners of the back lots marked on the range lines of the first survey.

It was agreed by the associates, July 4, 1780, that Reuben Colburn and Stephen Pullen should build the mills at Sandy-River, upon their giving bonds that it should be done by the 1st of August, 1781, and that they should be kept in repair seven years.

The saw-mill was put in operation in November 1781, and the grist-mill in the following August. The first meeting of "Colburn and his Associates," held at Sandy-River, was on the 15th of October, 1783, at the dwelling-house of Samuel Butterfield, where their meetings were afterwards held as long as they continued to transact business in that capacity.

At this meeting they chose Samuel Bullen, moderator,—Nehemiah Blodget, clerk,—Peter Corbett, treasurer,—Reuben Colburn, Samuel Butterfield and Nathaniel Davis committee—who were empowered to finish the survey in the most convenient possible manner for the associates.

The next meeting was held on the 12th of May, 1785, which was organized by choosing Mr. Samuel Butterfield, moderator;—Solomon Adams was chosen clerk, Peter Corbett, treasurer, and Samuel Butterfield, Solomon Adams and Nehemiah Blodget, committee for that year.

At this meeting they took measures to settle with Joseph North, and Solomon Adams for the survey of the town, which had previously been completed. Samuel Butterfield, Church Brainard and Solomon Adams were chosen a committee to dispose of lots on which the dividends had not been paid.

• This meeting was continued by adjournment to the first Wednesday of March, 1786, in the course of which period the proprietors closed most of their business; and made an assessment of one pound on a right for the repair of roads, to be paid in labor at four shillings a day, and chose Seth Greely and Church Brainard surveyors to see it expended, and make returns to the committee, and chose Samuel Butterfield, Solomon Adams and Samuel Bullen, agents on matters relative to securing their titles; but it does not appear that any thing decisive was done until February, 1790, or any records kept of the doings of the associates.

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### CHAPTER III.

*Stephen Titcomb—Joseph Brown—Nathaniel Davis—Enoch Craig—William Kannady—Solomon Adams—Nehemiah Blodget—Samuel Butterfield—Jonas Butterfield—Jonathan Knowlton—Peter Corbett—Francis Tufts.*

WE shall now trace the settlement of the town from the commencement in 1781, until the title was obtained in 1790, from the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Stephen Titcomb Esq. as has already been stated, commenced making improvements on the farm on which Capt. Charles Gill now lives, in September, 1776, which he continued to enlarge until 1780, when he built a log-house, having before lived in a temporary camp.—That season he raised some corn, potatoes and turnips. Having secured his corn in a crib and his potatoes and

turnips in the ground, he returned to Topsham, from which he started with his family in the winter of 1781, intending to move immediately into this town, but on account of the depth of the snow he was compelled to stop through the winter at Constant Norton's in Readfield, near the spot now occupied by the brick school-house, his being the last house. He came up and got in his crop in the spring, and then went down after his family, and, on the road, met Joseph Brown and Nathaniel Davis, on their way with their families to the Sandy-River. He returned immediately with his family. The corn which, the fall before, he had secured in a crib, was destroyed by bears, while he was detained by the snow. His potatoes and turnips having kept well, the former served for seed for the settlers that year.

The stock which Mr. Titcomb brought with him consisted of a yoke of oxen and three cows, which he provided for by pasturing them in the woods in the summer season and cut meadow-hay and raised oats for fodder in the winter.

The nearest mill at this time was at Winthrop where the factory now stands, about 30 miles distant, which subjected the earliest settlers to great inconvenience, as the road was bad, and most of them, as is commonly the case in new settlements, had no means of transportation. A saw-mill, however, was got into operation as early as November, 1781, when Mr. Titcomb went up with his team to haul in timber to saw for the running gear for a grist-mill. He stayed all night and sawed a thousand feet of boards in the evening, being the first boards sawed on the Sandy-River or any of its waters. The grist-mill was set in operation in the August following, which relieved the inhabitants of one of their greatest embarrassments.



Mr. Titcomb built his first barn in April, 1785, and his house in 1788, into which he moved in 1789.—The Rev. Mr. Emerson preached the first sermon in the Valley of the Sandy-River, in Mr. Titcomb's log-house. Stephen Titcomb Jr., son of Mr. Titcomb, was born November 4, 1782, being the first white male child born in the town. He died Sept. 26, 1830.

Mrs. Titcomb was a native of Johnstown, Rhode Island. She died November 6, 1839, at the age of 90. Mr. Titcomb lived on the farm on which he first settled 59 years, and which he sold in 1840 to Capt. Charles Gill. On selling his farm he removed to the village, where he is now living at the advanced age of 93 years. He is the only survivor among the heads of the seven families who first spent the winter in the town.

Joseph Brown and Nathaniel Davis removed from Winthrop to this then uninhabited wilderness in May, 1781, being the first families who moved into the town, or this side of what is now Readfield. Mr. Brown settled on the farm now owned by John Brooks and Loring Sweet. Having made but little preparation for the accommodation of a family, Mr. Brown erected a temporary camp, which answered his purpose till he became able to build a more substantial one. Mrs. Brown whose maiden name was Mary Greely, was one of the six heads of families of the same name, and children of — Greely, who early settled in this town. They were natives of Haverhill, Mass. Mrs. Brown being lame and there being only a path bushed out along the river, was under the necessity of riding on horse-back, notwithstanding the many dangers of the road. Coming down a steep descent within a short distance of their destined residence, she was thrown over the horse's head at the risk of her life. Mr. Brown built his first house on the intervale where it was

surrounded by water to a considerable depth in the great freshet of 1785, when the family had to make their escape in a canoe during the darkness of night, after which he built another log-house on the upland. He suffered severely by the loss of his crops in 1783 by a frost on the night of the 9th of August. He put up the first framed barn in the upper part of the town about 1787, the boards of which were fastened on by pegs—an invention not uncommon with the early settlers, and which answered a valuable purpose. He erected his house in 1793.

Mr. Brown was born on the Merrimac-River in Mass. He served as a soldier in the French-War, in which he was made partially a cripple through life, by the lodgment of a ball in his leg, which was never extracted. He came to this place poor—himself and wife partially crippled, but by persevering industry and strict economy they soon became clear of debt and independent, but from circumstances mostly beyond his control, he subsequently became reduced in circumstances and his farm was sold to John Patterson, from Damariscotta. About 1796 he removed to Industry, (then Plymouth-Patent,) with his oldest son, Samuel Brown, where his wife soon after died, and the wife of his son likewise. The family having been broken up he was supported by the town of Industry, where he died about 1810.

Mr. Davis, who, as has already been stated, removed to this town with Mr. Brown, in May, 1781, and whose wife also was a Greely, settled on the farm now owned by Jacob Abbott Esq. His situation was similar to that of Mr. Brown, having made little or no preparation for the reception of a family. He however fitted up a camp which answered his purpose for a time. He afterwards erected a more substantial log dwelling. He subsequent-

ly became insane, and, inclining to forsake the society of his family and betake himself to the forest, he made the little eminence just south of the present residence of Rev. Samuel Abbott his principal abode, it then being covered with a thick growth of spruce. He afterwards became quite rational.

About 1790 Jeriah Blake removed from Augusta into this town, with his family, and took up his residence with Mr. Davis and wife,—who had no children—where they remained till about 1793, when they removed to the farm now owned by Adam Mott, in Wilton, (then Tyngtown.) Mr. Davis moved to the "Upper-Town," now' Phillips, where his wife died. He afterwards resided in the family of Mr. Blake in Temple. He was subject at times to partial insanity, and was afterwards supported by the town of Temple where he died. Mr. D's farm passed into the hands of Samuel Pool, who set up a tannery and continued business for some years. Mr. Pool was a soldier in the war of the Revolution, and is, with his wife, still living, at an advanced age, in Mount-Vernon. Mr. Blake died at the residence of his son, John L. Blake, in Phillips, July 14, 1840, aged 89 years. He was an officer in the Revolution.

In June 1781, Enoch Craig, Robert Kannady, Calvin Edson and Gerret Burns came from that part of Hallowell now Augusta, for the purpose of viewing the country. Mr. Kannady had drawn a right in the town the year previous. Mr. Craig was a native of Wrentham Mass. He early enlisted in the continental service and served until 1780, when he left the army and came into this part of the country for the purpose of procuring land for a settlement—his brother Elias having been settled at what is now Augusta. They returned immediately, and in September Mr. Craig with

William Kannady came up and felled some trees on the farm on which Joseph S. Craig now lives, and that known as the Heath-Farm, on which Mr. Kannady settled. They found some bark peeled, of which they constructed a camp. Mr. Craig sowed two bushels of winter-wheat in the fall of 1782, which was all winter-killed. He sowed the same ground with spring-wheat in 1783 and planted some corn which was all killed by the great frost in August. In 1785 he suffered considerable damage by the great freshet which flowed his hovel to a considerable depth and injured his grain. Mr. Craig continued to make improvements, and added to his farm already begun upon, the lot immediately above. He erected a superior log-house near the intervale. In the winter of 1789 he went to (now) Augusta, with Dorothy Starling his intended wife, for the purpose of being married, where they had previously been published, (there being no person nearer than that vicinity qualified to solemnize marriages.) He erected his framed barn about this time, but his house was not raised till 1795 or 1796. He possessed the universal confidence of his townsmen and was elected one of the first selectmen, in which office he served some years, and subsequently to the office of town-treasurer, and to other responsible offices, all of which he filled with fidelity. He died December 10, 1835, aged 77 years, and his wife February 2, 1829, aged 66 years.

William Kannady, as has been stated, commenced on what has since been called the Heath-Farm, in 1781, where he soon made a permanent settlement, and erected a log-house on the first rise from the intervale. He lost his wife in January, 1788, who was the third adult that died in the town. Mr. Phillip Davenport, who lived near where Fairbanks'-Bridge now stands, lost a



child a few days before, and they were both buried in what is called the Old-Burying-Ground, near the Center-Bridge. This was the first burying-ground in town.

Mr. Kannady was afterwards married to Sarah Smith. They accompanied Mr. Craig to Hallowell for that purpose. He continued on the farm on which he first begun until 1792, when he sold to Benjamin Heath from Freetown, Mass. who set up and carried on the blacksmithing business in connection with farming, for some years. About 1817, he sold and removed with his sons to what is now Salem, and built the first mills in that place, where he died in 1826.

Mr. Kannady removed to what is now Temple, and, after a number of removals he again settled in this town, where he died in 1820, aged 57. His wife is still living.

Solomon Adams, formerly of Chelmsford, (now Lowell, Mass.,) having served in the war of the Revolution, from the commencement until near 1781, in the course of that year came to the Sandy-River for the purpose of settling. He made some improvements on the farm on which Benjamin Adams now lives and built a log-house. At this time he brought his provisions from Chelmsford by land to Boston, from thence to Hallowell by water and from there to this place on horse-back. He lost his barn by fire, with all his effects in 1788. He erected his first framed house in 1787, and married with Hannah Butterfield about the same time. He was a practical surveyor, in which capacity he was of great use in the then new country. Mr. Adams held various offices in the militia, was early commissioned as justice-of-the-peace, was chosen town-clerk, treasurer and selectman, in all of which offices he served for many years with credit to himself and to the interest of

the town. He was killed in Vienna by being thrown from his carriage, November 4, 1833, at the age of 75 years. His wife is still living on the same farm, and draws a pension from the U. S. for the services of her late husband in the war of the Revolution.

Nehemiah Blodget begun on the farm known as the Brown-Farm, in the lower part of the town, now owned by Daniel Beale Jr.,—in 1780, where he made a permanent settlement and built the first framed house in this town, about 1785. The same house has since been fitted up and now stands on what was a part of the Tufts-Farm, a little east of its former location. Mr. Blodget sold to a Mr. Ditson. Capt. Samuel Brown settled on this farm in 1801, and erected new buildings. He died in 1811. His widow Susannah Brown is still living at the advanced age of 94 years. Mr. Blodget soon left the place and little is known of his history.

Samuel Butterfield and Jonas Butterfield, removed from Dunstable, Mass., to this town in November 1781, and brought their families in a wagon. They came through Lewiston to Monmouth over a new road, where there was but a spotted line the spring before. Samuel Butterfield settled on the lot now owned by Moses Butterfield. Having no buildings erected, he set up four crotches on which he laid poles and covered them with elm bark, which answered a valuable purpose for a dwelling-house for some years, with the addition of a small framed building, being the first of the kind put up in the town. These buildings were occupied by Mr. Butterfield until he built what was long called the Butterfield-Red-House, about 1789, (now white and occupied by Moses Butterfield. Mr. Butterfield built the brick house now owned by James Butterfield, in 1800, the first brick building erected in the town. Mr. Butterfield was one of the three who purchased the

town in 1790. He was chosen representative in 1808, and died the same year, aged 66 years. Prudence Butterfield, his youngest daughter, (now widow Whittier—formerly Russell,) born February 12, 1784, is said to have been the first female born in town, but it appears by the records, that she was the second, a Mr. Page having had a daughter born in the winter of 1783.

Jonas Butterfield settled on the farm now owned by David Ingham, where he died at an advanced age.—The farm cleared by him passed to David Ingham, a son-in-law, and from him to the present occupant.

Jonathan Knowlton 1st, moved into this town in the course of 1781, from Damariscotta. He was a native of Ipswich, Mass. and he settled on the farm now owned by Jonathan and Francis Knowlton. He built his first log-house on the intervale, which was surrounded by water in the great freshet, October 1785, to the depth of four feet. He was compelled to convey his family across the river in the night in a canoe, to a higher peak of intervale on which Francis Tufts had built a log-house, which was all surrounded by water, where all remained with trembling anxiety, expecting every moment to see the canoe sunk by the drift-stuff, which run without cessation from the low lands then in the progress of clearing, until the last trip was made, and to their astonishment and joy, all were safely landed. Mr. Knowlton soon after built a more substantial log building on the upland in which he lived till about 1796 when he built a framed house. At this date he was in easy circumstances but in the commencement he and his family suffered in common with many others, as is frequently the case in making new settlements so far in the wilderness. For the first year they were not favored with a chair or a table, and for the want of a mill had to hull corn

and pound samp. Mr. Knowlton was one of the principal agents in the purchase of the township now New-Vineyard. He was also the principal owner of the mills and machinery at the Falls, for a time. He died in 1819 at the age of 70. Samuel Knowlton his second son was born Jan. 14, 1783, being the second male child born in town.

Peter Corbett moved his family into the new settlement from Winthrop, in January 1782. Mr. Corbett was a native of Milford, Mass.—had moved his family from that place, the year previous, to Winthrop, where they remained while he was making preparation to remove them to this place. He was one of the associates and drew the lot on which he settled it being the south part of the farm now occupied and owned by Rufus Corbett and sons, on which he built the second framed house in the town in 1786. (This has recently been torn down.) Mr. Corbett made the bricks for his chimney on his farm, and which are supposed to have been the first made in town. Mr. Corbett made the seventh family that wintered in town in 1782. He was one of the first selectmen, in which office he acted for many years.

Francis Tufts a native of Medford, Mass., having married a daughter of Ebenezer Blunt and settled in Nobleborough in 1780, came on horseback to a Mr. Emerson's on the farm since known as the Ingham-Farm at the foot of the Folsom-Hill in Mount-Vernon, from thence by a compass, struck the Wilson-Stream near the present location of the Whittier-Bridge, then traveled up as far as Strong, his object having been to explore the country. He purchased a possession of one Mr. Knights, (the farm on which Samuel Daggett now lives,) and continued to make improvements until November 1783, when he removed his family together with Mr. and



Mrs. Blunt, his wife's parents. He was four days on the road, brought his children in hanyards made of basket-stuff, on horseback. He came some distance on the east side of the Kennebec, under the bank, at low water, to Pittston-Ferry, there crossed, then had a road to Mount-Vernon, then a spotted line. They brought little save their beds. Mr. Tufts had erected a log-house which he covered with elm bark, and floored with hewn bass-wood planks and made partitions of the same. His jambs and back were of hemlock. He cut the first English hay, though Mr. Titcomb raised the first corn and grain. His corn was injured by the frost on the 9th of August, 1783, yet he saved his red corn. Mr. Blunt died in 1784, the first instance of the death of an adult in the town. Mr. Tufts, built the first mills at the Falls in 1788, sold one-half to Ebenezer Jones in 1790, and he built his framed house on the intervale in 1791, and his barn previously to that time, and his brick house on the road in 1800. He was one of three who purchased the town in 1790. He sold his farm and removed to the upper part of the town about 18—, and subsequently to his son's near the old farm when he relinquished business. On the death of his wife he went to the state of Ohio in 1831, where he died in October, 1834, aged 93 years.

## CHAPTER IV.

*Jesse Gould—Wm. Gould—Benjamin Weathern—Reuben Lowell—  
Jesse Butterfield—Robert Gower—Joseph Greely—Seth Greely—  
Zacheus Mayhew—Hartson Cony—Supply Belcher—Simeon Russ  
—Joseph Sylvester—Joseph Holland—John Church—Reuben  
Page—Ebenezer Sweet—Micah Weathern—Benjamin Blackston.*

Jesse and William Gould removed from Dunstable, Mass. in 1782. Jesse settled on the farm now owned by Ira Armsby, and married with ——— Starling. They sold in 1837 and removed to the Ohio with their son, where both have since died.

William settled on the farm where Daniel Sewall now lives, where he died. He was appointed adjutant in the militia soon after it was organized on the Sandy-River, and subsequently held the office of brigadier general. He represented the town in the general-court of Massachusetts in 1822, and died at his residence some years since.

In 1783 Benjamin Weathern from Nobleborough made a beginning on the farm now owned by his son of the same name. Here he subsequently made a settlement and died, of cold-fever, about 1814.

Reuben Lowell from Kingston, Mass., also settled about the same time on the westerly side of the river, where Samuel Lowell now lives. He was a man of intelligence and filled several responsible offices in the early settlement of the country. He died in Chesterville.

Jesse Butterfield formerly of Dunstable, Mass., also settled this year, on the farm adjoining Mr. Lowell's where Nathaniel Greenwood now lives, where he lived

to the advanced age of *ninety*, to enjoy the liberality of his country, for the services rendered by him in the war of the Revolution. He died March 7, 1842.

Robert Gower also moved his family this year, from Topsham. He was a native of England and his wife of Johnstown, R. I., He settled on the farm adjoining Mr. Titcomb's where he began to make improvements in 1776, and made a permanent settlement in 1782. He died Aug. 26, 1806, aged 84. His wife died in New-Sharon, Jan. 15, 1836, aged 91.

In the course of the same year Joseph and Seth Gree-ly, with their father, moved from Winthrop. Joseph settled on the lot now owned by Mr. Stoyells and others, and on which a large portion of the Center-Village, is situated. He purchased the possession of a Mr. Snow who had made a temporary beginning. Mr. G. made considerable improvements, and built the first framed barn in this neighborhood in 1788. He sold to Zacheus Mayhew, a native of Martha's-Vineyard, about 1791. He removed to Pond-Town, (now Belgrade,) where he died some years since. Mr. Mayhew build a large house in 1792, and made considerable improvements and soon after sold to Hartson Cony, a native of Easton, Mass., and commenced improvements on the farm now owned by Abraham Johnson, and subsequently removed to Nobleborough, where he died. Mr. Cony was naturally a business man and was one of the first who commenced trading. He afterwards sold to Ebenezer Sweet. He died in Canada.

Seth Gree-ly, with his father, settled on the farm now owned by Enoch C. Belcher and Hiram Belcher, and continued to make improvements till 1790, when he sold to supply Belcher, and soon after removed with his father to what is now Phillips, where his father died. He

removed, in 1818, with his son, Moses Greely to Ohio, his wife having died at Phillips. He has since died.

Mr. Belcher was a native of Stoughton, Mass. He removed to that part of Hallowell now Augusta, from which place he removed his family to the farm before owned by Mr. Greely, in the winter of 1791. He acted as agent for the inhabitants of the then plantation in procuring the act of incorporation in 1794, and was the first town-clerk, and afterwards one of the selectmen. He represented the town in the general-court of Massachusetts at different periods. He early held a commission of justice-of-the-peace, and was one of the principal acting magistrates till near his death. He died 1836, aged 84 years.

Simeon Russ, in the course of 1783, settled on the farm now owned by Samuel Stanley, whose family is said to have been the first that moved above Joseph Brown's. He subsequently removed to the lot now owned by Joseph Riant, and afterwards to the upper lot in town, now improved by James Wellman, where he made some improvements, erected temporary buildings, lost his wife, and from which he went to Canada.

The farm on which Mr. Russ first settled passed into the hands of Jason D. Cony, where he made a settlement about 1794, and built the first mill in the upper part of the town, in connection with Robert Jones.

Joseph Sylvester settled on the farm now owned by Thomas Hunter, sold to Benjamin Butler, a native of Martha's-Vineyard, in 1790, and commenced on the other side of the river. Mr. Butler conveyed to his son, from whom it passed into the hands of the present occupant. Mr. Butler was a house-joiner by trade and took the lead in building most of the first dwelling-houses on the river. He died in Avon.



Joseph Holland made a settlement on the farm on which the upper part of the village is situated, about this time. He built a temporary house near the interval. It is said that the first marriage solemnized in town was in this house, while without a floor; Joseph Battle and Eunice Maloon having been joined in marriage by Dummer Sewall Esq, of Bath. They were served with a good quarter of baked lamb, but had no knives excepting those they carried with them.

Mr. Holland sold to John Church, 1790, and removed to the other side of the river and from there to No. 1, now Temple, having been one of the first settlers in that town. Mr. Church removed his family from Augusta to this town, in company with Mr. Belcher, in the winter of 1791, (having worked the winter before in company with Josiah Blake, at his trade in Solomon Butterfield's old log-house, on the western side of the river.) They went into a log-house which had been built by Mr. Holland, being his second, on the hill a few feet north of where the Church-House now stands, which was put up by Mr. C. in 1793 or 4. This was the first on the rise where the village now is, it being then an unbroken forest, with the exception of a small piece around Mr. Church's house.—Mr. Church had caused a shop to be put up the season before, in which he commenced business as a blacksmith, and which he continued in connection with his farm.—He soon after opened a public house which was the first in town. He removed to what is now Salem, in connection with his son Samuel Church and afterwards returned to his former residence. He was a native of Kinniston, Conn. and died at his former residence, March 12, 1838, aged 85 years. His wife, whose maiden name was Susannah Cony, was from Easton, Mass. She died May 6, 1844, aged 88.

Reuben Page settled about this time on the lot afterwards owned by Ebenezer Sweet, on which the southerly part of the Center-Village is now situated. Mr. P. early removed from the place and little is known of his history. It appears by the records that he had a daughter born in the winter of 1783, the first female born in the town.

Mr. Sweet was from Attleborough, Mass. and succeeded Mr. Page some time previous to 1784. He commenced the first tannery in town, in 1785, which was situated near where the Congregational Meeting-house now stands. He afterwards enlarged his farm by the purchase of the lot north of his former settlement. He died November 4, 1835, aged 96 years, and his wife Desire Sweet, December 12, 1839, aged 95. They were people of industrious habits and arrived to a competency for the conveniences of life by their own industry and economy. A "fell piece," about where the Congregational-Meeting-house now stands, was first planted late in June by Mrs. Sweet, with the aid of a *case-knife* for the want of a more suitable instrument of husbandry, from which they derived a plentiful harvest. This was one of their first helps in the commencement.

In 1781 or 1782 Micah Weather. visited the Sandy-River region for the purpose of making a settlement.—He commenced on the lot now owned by Amasa Corbett and soon after exchanged with Benjamin Blackston, and moved to Middle-town, now Strong. Mr. Blackston dying, Lydia Blackston, his widow, became the owner in the right of her husband, from whom it passed to Peter Corbett who had settled on the lot adjoining on the south.

## CHAPTER V.

*Reuben Butterfield—Moses Chandler—Joseph Bradford—Indian Barbarity—Heroic Act—Isaac Teague—Isaac Page—Samuel Keen—Phillip Davenport—John Huston—John Austin—Jacob Eaton—Wm. Thorn—Moses Starling—Samuel Sewall—Amos Page—Ezekiel Page—Ebenezer Norton—Thomas Hiscock—Benjamin Whittier—Ephraim Cowan—David B. Cowan—Other Settlers.*

Reuben Butterfield came from Dunstable, Mass., while a single man, in 1781, with Samuel Butterfield, made a temporary stay, then returned to his native place. After a stay of a year or two returned to the Sandy-River and recommenced improvements or purchased a new possession of Abraham Page, being the farm now owned by Thomas Lewis and Alfred Bradford, which soon after passed into the hands of Joseph Bradford. Mr. Butterfield then purchased of Moses Chandler, who had previously commenced on the farm where he now resides in the family of George Wheeler, on the west side of the river. Mr. Chandler purchased the farm adjoining, now owned by his son, Moses Chandler, of a Mr. Kinney, from Hallowell, who had made some improvements. His crops having been injured by the frost he became discouraged and returned to his native place.

Mr. Chandler was chosen captain of the south company when first organized—was the second colonel who commanded the regiment first organized on the Sandy-River. He represented the town in the general-court of Massachusetts, in 1806. He died some twenty years since. His wife is still living.

Joseph Bradford was from Meduncook, now Friendship, in this state. His wife, formerly Abigail Starling, with

her sister Dorothy, (afterwards Mrs. Craig,) came from Friendship on horseback, but as they had one of Mrs. B's children to bring they could only ride by turns,—the one riding taking charge of the child. The road then was only a spotted line, bushed out.

During the French and Indian War of 1755, the parents of Mr. Bradford were inhumanly murdered by the savages. They, with others equally enterprising had removed to a then new and thinly settled portion of the state, then known as Meduncook, (now Friendship,) and already had their labors been crowned with success, but the din of war with its attendant perils broke in upon their peaceful toils. A garrison was speedily erected and the various families removed there. Mr. B's being but a short distance from, and directly in view of the garrison, he did not deem it necessary to remove, as they could easily reach it if attacked. One morning, while Mr. B. was engaged in pounding corn, a simple substitute for obtaining meal, a party of Indians was seen from the garrison to be approaching the house. An alarm gun was soon fired, but owing to the noise of the mortar it was not heard by the inmates, and the savages were not perceived until they entered their dwelling. They immediately dispatched Mr. and Mrs. B. A daughter of some twelve or fourteen years of age, who had sought a momentary concealment, sprung from under the bed and caught the infant as it fell unharmed from the mother's arms, and fled through the open door for the Garrison. The Indians pursued, but not being able to overtake her, threw a tomahawk, which inflicted a deep wound in her side. But the heroic girl clasping the babe more firmly with one hand, with the other prevented her intestines from falling to the ground, and in this situation reached the garrison. She recovered from the wound,



and subsequently married and removed to Vermont where she became the mother of a family of children.

The Indians succeeded in capturing two of Mr. B's brothers, being young lads, and carried them to Canada. They were afterwards exchanged, but deceptively detained in the state of New-York, but eventually reached home after some lapse of time, through a train of providential circumstances.

Isaac Teague settled not long after the date at the close of the last chapter, on the farm now owned by Francis and Peter P. Tufts from whom it passed to Francis Tufts 2d, the father of the present occupants, about 1790.

Isaac Page settled about this time near the center of the town on the lot afterwards owned by Jedediah Thomas and others, on the west side of the river. He left the town at an early day and little is known of his history.

Samuel Keen commenced a settlement on the farm now occupied by William Adams prior to 1784, and Samuel Bullen from Hallowell, who was one of the associates, on the Case-Farm, soon after. Mr. K. afterwards sold to Solomon Adams Esq., and went to Curvo, (now Phillips,) where he afterwards died. Mr. Bullen subsequently sold to Mr. Case, and he has since died.

Phillip Davenport settled about the same time, just below where the Fairbank's-Bridge now stands, near Jone's-Rock, on the mill-lot. He soon left and was followed by Robert Jones.

John Huston, a native of Dunstable, Mass., removed from Sidney about this time, and made a settlement on the farm now owned by Jeremiah and Ephraim S. Butler. He made his first clearing on the intervale where he erected a log-house. He made a clearing on that part of

his farm where the village at Backus'-Corner is situated, where he built a log-house in 1792. He died in 1794. His former wife was one of the Greely family.

John Austin removed from Brunswick in 1784, and settled on the west side of the river, opposite the center of the town. He was the first sexton in the town, in which capacity he served many years. He was a soldier in the French war of 1755, was at the taking of Quebec, under Gen. Wolf, and also served as a soldier in the war of the Revolution.

Mrs. Austin was a native of Cape-Ann, and was generally known to the first settlers on the Sandy-River as a doctress, in which capacity she rendered the inhabitants essential services, for many years—there having been no settled physician in this section of the country till about 1792.

Jacob Eaton removed his family from Bristol to this town in October, 1784. He settled on the farm now owned by Thomas Davis, the Greenwoods, and others, known as the Mill-lot. He purchased the mill built by Colburn & Pullen, with his brother Joseph Eaton, who sold his half to Moses Starling, about two years after, and returned to his former residence. Mr. Jacob Eaton attended to farming as well as to carrying on the mills, which were rebuilt and considerably improved by him and Mr. Starling. He erected framed buildings prior to 1790. In 1791 he went to the province of New-Brunswick, where he was drowned at St.-John's Falls, Nov. 18, 1791. Mr. William Thorn, father of Mrs. Eaton, an elderly gentleman, who came with Mr. Eaton's family, died in the fall of 1786, being the second death in the town. Mr. Thorn was from Topsham, where he suffered severely in the French and Indian war of 1755, by losing an arm, and by having a son scalped by the In-

dians. He was buried near the Center-Bridge, in what is now called the Old-Burying-ground. Mrs. Eaton died in 1804, aged 64.

Moses Starling came from Bristol to this town in Sept. 1786, and commenced on the farm now improved by the widow of the late Lemuel Perham, deceased, (though his family remained at Bristol, until 1788.) He soon after purchased half of the mills, formerly known as Starling's-Mills,—of Joseph Eaton, which he carried on together with the improvement of his farm. He was the most efficient carpenter in the place for some years.—He received a commission as justice-of-the-peace, in 1790, which was the first held in the town. He was also the first post-master, and the first town-treasurer. He died in October, 1809, aged 62. His wife Mary Starling survived till 1814, when she died at the age of 75.

Mr. Samuel Sewall settled about this time where John Morrison now lives, at the lower extremity of the town. He commenced tanning at this place, being one of the first tanners in town. He built the first mills at this place, about 1792, as also the house now occupied by Mr. Morrison, some time previously. Mr. Sewall became an acceptable preacher and sold to Mr. Morrison, about 1805, after which he prosecuted his labors as a preacher in different places.

Amos Page, and Ezekiel Page, his father, made a settlement this year, 1786, on the farm now owned by George W. Norton and Samuel B. Norton. They erected a temporary building below the ridge near the intervalle. They sold to Ebenezer Norton Esq., who removed from Edgartown, Mass., and built the house now owned by George W. Norton and a barn under the hill, in 1791. He was chosen representative in 1804, and died in the same year.

Thomas Hiscock removed in 1787 from Damariscotta and settled on the farm now owned by Hiram Hiscock and Caleb Butterfield on the west side of the river, where he resided till his death, many years since. His wife died the present season.

Benjamin Whittier, in this or the following year, removed from Readfield and settled on what is now called the Whittier-Farm, on the west side of Sandy-River, and adjoining Chesterville. He was from New-Hampshire, and he died about 1822.

Ephraim Cowan formerly of Dunstable, Mass., removed with his family from Augusta, in 1788 and settled on the lot now owned by Dr. Flint and others, with his son David B. Cowan, they being the first settlers in that neighborhood. Mr. Cowan was one of the associates and had taken an active part in the purchase and settlement of the town, previous to his removing into it. He was the first clerk of the associates. He served as a soldier during most of the French-War. His death occurred June 9, 1797.

David B. Cowan made the first beginning on what is called Cowan-Hill about 1800, where he moved in 1805. He died in 1830.

In March, 1788, Lemuel Perham 1st, Eliphalet Bailey, Oliver Bailey, and John F. Woods 1st, removed from Dunstable, Mass. They brought their families and effects with ox teams, and arrived here on the 3rd day of April, having been 23 days on the road, the first part of their journey having been impeded for the want of snow and the latter part by the snow falling to an unusual depth. It was with great difficulty that they could make any progress on the road. The three former settled in the easterly part of the town, in the Bailey-Hill-Neighborhood, they being the first settlers in that section of



the town, except one Joseph Ralph, who had commenced on the farm now owned by Richard Parker, some few years before, who occupied it alone till 1792 or 1793 when he sold to Peter West and removed to what is now Starks. Mr. West sold to Zachariah Norton, soon after, from whom it passed to William Parker, Esq., who died about 1840 and left it to the present occupant.

A Mr. Hartwell, Eliphalet Gennings, Abraham Smith, and Samuel Stowers, settled in the more easterly part of the town soon after. Mr. Gennings and Mr. Smith are still living not only to enjoy the fruits of their persevering industry in cultivating the wilderness, but the bounty of their country for their early services in the war of the revolution in the establishment of our independence.

Deacon Woods settled on the farm now owned by Nathaniel Woods in the southerly part of the town, being one of the first in that section. He was one of the first who united in church capacity in the town, and from which time till his death he filled the office of deacon. He was for many years one of the selectmen. He died in 1815, aged 62. His wife Mary Woods survived till October, 1844, when she died at the advanced age of 96 years and two days.

Silas Gould, (since known as Col. Gould,) removed from Dunstable, Mass., and made a settlement on the farm now owned by John A. Gould in the westerly section of the town, in 1786, being the first on a back lot. He purchased a right in what was then called Tyngtown (now Wilton,) where he afterwards removed to make the necessary settlement.

Eli Brainard settled on the farm now owned by Leonard M. Hiscock, at an early date. He left for the South soon after 1791.

Ephraim Butterfield 1st and 2d, Josiah and Jonas Green, Samuel Chandler and Samuel Knowlton, were among the early settlers in the same section of the town.

John Rice settled about this time on the farm now owned by J. S. Ellis. He afterwards sold to Jonathan Cushman, from the vicinity of New-Bedford, Mass., who died April 24, 1834, aged 79.

In 1789 Peter Gay a native of Stoughton, Mass., removed his family from Meduncook, now Friendship, in this state, and settled on the west side of the river, on the farm now owned by Benjamin Dutton, his sons Elisha and Jabez, having worked the year previous in the place. Mr. Gay was a blacksmith by trade, he set up the business at this place and carried on farming with good success. He built the first framed barn in that section of the town about 1790.

Elisha Gay began soon after to make improvements on the farm now owned by Hiram Gay, near the upper part of the town, where he made a permanent settlement, and where he remained till his death, in 1842.—His age was 74.

Samuel Briggs settled near the same time on the farm now owned by Peter R. Tufts on the west side of the river. He sold to Nathaniel Hearsey in 1796, and removed to No. 1, now Temple, being one of the first settlers in that town.

## CHAPTER VI.

*Settlers and Settlements—Produce.*

David Wentworth, Hugh Cox, Joseph Riant, Adin Briggs and Benjamin Handy settled about the same time on the front lots on the west side of the river. Mr. Cox put up the first framed house in the upper part of the town, soon after that time. He leaving the place soon after, it remained unfinished for a few years, after which it was fitted up by Isaac Powers who made the first permanent settlement on the lot now owned by Samuel York and others.

Ezekiel Porter and Gershom Collier were the first two who settled on what is called Porter's-Hill. Having previously made a small beginning on the farm now owned by Rial Gleason, he removed from Augusta, about 1790; and Mr. Collier settled the year following on the same tract, and afterwards on the farm now owned by William Tuck. Zebulon True commenced immediately after, still farther north, and Jabez Gay on the farm on which he now lives, to the south.

Col. Porter was a native of Groton Mass. He settled at Augusta in early life and went into mercantile business, in which he failed. After his removal to Farmington he entered largely into the business of farming, which he carried on, perhaps on a larger scale than any other man has ever done in this section of the state, especially the business of clearing land. He entered into trade in 1803, first at his residence and afterwards at the Starling-Village. He traded largely, for a new place, for some years. At the organization of the militia he was chosen captain and soon after was promoted to the com-

mand of the regiment. He was twice chosen representative to the General-Court of Massachusetts, from this town, and he served several years as one of the selectmen of the town. He left this state and went to New-York, and settled near the city, in 1812 or 1813; where he died some years since.

Joseph Battle made the first beginning in what is called the Holly-Neighborhood, near where Thomas Wendell now lives, about 1790 or 1791. He erected the first framed barn about 1793. He died about 1795.

William Allen, from Martha's-Vineyard, settled immediately after Mr. Battle, in the same neighborhood, on what is called the Allen-Place, and was soon followed by John Holly 1st, Hugh Stewart and Jonathan Butler, from the same place. Thomas Wendell Esq. settled on the farm on which he now lives, about 1794. Capt. Allen subsequently removed to what is now Industry, then Plymouth-Patent. He was one of the first settlers in that place. James Rowings settled still further back at a subsequent period. Mr. Wendell is the only survivor of the first settlers.

Peter Norton, from Edgartown, Martha's-Vineyard, made the first beginning on the farm now owned by Joseph Titcomb, on the Industry road, in 1791. He put up a log-house and moved into it in the fall of that year—his being the first family on that road. His wife, whose maiden name was Betsey Beetle, died the winter following. He soon after settled in New-Portland, where he died.

Joseph Fairbanks, from Winthrop, made the first chopping on the farm now owned by James Norton, in June 1792, and Abram Smith, from Martha's-Vineyard, commenced on the Backus-Farm, now owned and improved by Capt. Wm. Cothren, the same season; but Mr. Smith



never made a permanent settlement, having been killed at sea, soon after, by a fall from the mast-head. Col. Fairbanks continued to make improvements, put up the present buildings, and set out the first orchard in town. He subsequently sold to Timothy Smith, when he removed to the Eaton-Farm, and from there to the upper part of the town, where he built the mills known as Fairbank's-Mills, and entered into trade and farming in connection with his mill, and continued to do a large amount of business till near his death. He was killed by a fall from his wagon, Sept. 12, 1831.

Col. Fairbanks was a useful and enterprising citizen, held an office in the militia for some fifteen years, was for some time one of the selectmen of the town, and he likewise represented the town in the General-Court of Massachusetts in 1819; and, in 1823 and 1824 he was chosen senator from the Kennebec senatorial district to the legislature of this state.

Zacheus Mayhew made the first beginning on the farm now owned by Abraham Johnson, in 1793, and Rufus Allen on the farm now owned by Dennis Allen, in 1794, and Peter Norton, about the same time, on the north part of the same lot. John Tufts settled on the old Backus-Farm a short time previous, and Isaac Perkins and Otis Foster on the farm now owned by Uzziel Weeks and others. Mr. Perkins soon removed to the river, at the upper part of the town. It is to him and the before named Rufus Allen that we are mostly indebted for our first and early start in orcharding. They furnished most of the trees in town from nurseries of their own planting. In 1790 or 1791 many of the first settlers in the middle and upper sections of the town were disposed to sell and go back to still newer settlements. Others came in, among whom were Benjamin



Butler, Elvaton Parker, Peter West, Elijah Butler, and Abiatha Green.

During this period most of the business was done by exchange of articles. Corn and grain at first, and afterwards neat stock were the staple commodities produced by the farmers, and most of the paper taken was for specific articles of this character, at a stated market or cash price, as might be agreed upon. In 1791 Mr. Brown received a silver dollar, (silver being the only money then in circulation,) in payment for the labor of himself and team for a day, which he observed was the first dollar he had received for the ten years he had lived in the place. At this period considerable quantities of corn and grain were hauled to Hallowell, the nearest market, and exchanged for such commodities as were needed by the inhabitants, a trade which continued for many years, while the new lands were being cleared,—since which grass-seed, beef, store-cattle, sheep and wool have become our chief articles of export. The potato crop has almost invariably been abundant, until affected by the rot the last year, but the situation is too far in the interior to afford a profit by transportation to market. Should the potato-rot cease, however, it is thought they will afford a profit to the producer by being manufactured into starch.

From the sugar-maple considerable quantities of sugar and molasses have been produced, and were sufficient attention paid to the subject a liberal supply might be made for many of the inhabitants and in many instances a surplus might be furnished.

In 1791, being ten years from the first settlement, there were about 85 families in the town.

## CHAPTER VII.

*The Township falls without the limits of Plymouth Claim—Petition of Inhabitants—Resolve—Act of Incorporation.*

Previous to the winter session of the General-Court of Massachusetts, for 1790, the boundary line between the Plymouth Company and the state lands had been settled by an agreement that the boundary of the former should begin at the mouth of the Wesserunset-Stream, which empties into the Kennebec just below Skowhegan Falls, in Milburn, running from thence due north, three miles, thence west, twenty miles, thence southerly to agree with the courses of the Kennebec. A survey having been taken by Samuel Titcomb, Esq., it was found that this town would fall without the Plymouth Claim.

A meeting of the inhabitants was held at the house of Samuel Butterfield for the purpose of petitioning the General-Court, to obtain a title to their land. It was agreed to petition jointly, that the Colburn associates who had settled on settler's lots should be used as they were to have been used under the Plymouth Company, and that the settlers on the proprietor's lots should be used as other settlers were on state lands.

Samuel Butterfield and Benj. Whittier were chosen agents on the part of the proprietors of the settler's lots, and Francis Tufts on the part of the settlers on the lots reserved for the proprietors of the Kennebec-Purchase, agreeably to the arrangement made with them by Reuben Colburn and his Associates.

This committee attended the General-Court at the winter session of 1790, and obtained the following Re-

solve in favor of the inhabitants, and granting the residue of the unsettled lands to Dummer Sewall, Francis Tufts and Samuel Butterfield.

*“Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”*

“In Senate, February 4th, 1790.

“Whereas, the proprietors of the Kennebec-Purchase, by their committee on the fourth day of October 1779, under the apprehension that the tract now called the Sandy-River Lower Township, belonged to said proprietors, did enter into an agreement or contract respecting the land contained in said township, with Reuben Colburn and his associates, wherein the said associates on their part agreed to survey and lay out said township, divide the same into lots, mark the lots for settlers with the letter S., and the lots to be reserved for said proprietors with the letter P., and return a plan thereof to the clerk of said proprietors, and within a certain time to settle said township, make improvements therein, clear roads &c.: and in consideration thereof the said committee, in behalf of said proprietors, on their part agreed that the said Reuben Colburn and his Associates, should hold all the lots in said township, marked with the letter S., in the said plan returned, a duplicate whereof accompanies this resolve.

“And whereas it appears to this court, that said Reuben and his Associates have complied with the said agreement, on their part, and would have been entitled to the several lots in said township marked with the letter S., if the said township had really belonged to said proprietors. But whereas it now appears that the lands in said township are the property of this commonwealth, and inasmuch as considerable advantage has resulted to said commonwealth from the settlement of said township

by said associates: and in order that said associates may not be disturbed in the possession of their settlements,

“Therefore, Resolved, That there be, and hereby is, granted and confirmed unto the said Reuben and his Associates aforesaid, their heirs and assigns, all the lots in said plan marked with the letter S., together with the Mill-Lot in said township, so called, as tenants in common, excepting such lots as have already been drawn to the associates, which shall be held in severalty by each associate, his heirs and assigns accordingly.

“And it is further Resolved, that there be, and hereby is, granted and confirmed to Dummer Sewall, of Bath, Esq., Francis Tufts and Samuel Butterfield, of Sandy-River, aforesaid, yeomen, their heirs and assigns, all the rest and residue of said township, on the following conditions, and with the following reservations, viz.—That the said Dummer, Francis and Samuel shall quit the settlers hereafter named, who settled in said township before the first day of January, 1784, viz. Benjamin Weatheren, William Gould, Reuben Lowell, Jonathan Knowlton, William Gower, John Austin, Simeon Russ, John Huston, Enoch Craig, Joseph Sylvester, Joseph Holland, Ebenezer Sweet, Abram Page, William White, Samuel Keen, Lydia Blackstone, Stephen Titcomb, Robert Gower, and Francis Tufts, by granting to each of them to hold in fee one hundred acres of land, to be so laid out as will best include his or her improvements and be least injurious to the adjoining lands, upon the receipt of 30 shillings from such settler, to be paid by each within nine months from this date. And also shall quit the settlers hereafter named, who settled in said township after the first day of January, 1784, viz.—Josiah Blake, Samuel Ames, Samuel Briggs, Joseph Riant, Hugh Cox, David Wentworth, Joseph Bradford, Benjamin Handy, Isaac



Powers, Abram Page, Silas Gould, Samuel Chandler, Ephraim Cowan, Noah Billington, Susannah Davenport, Isaac Teague, Abram Smith, Joseph Ralph, and Oliver Bailey, by granting to each of them to hold in fee, one hundred acres of land, to be so laid out as will best include his or her improvements, and be least injurious to the adjoining lands, upon the receipt of *six pounds* from each settler, to be paid within nine months from this date. Reserving, however, four lots of three hundred and twenty acres each, for public uses, viz.—one for the first settled minister, one for the use of the ministry, one for the use of schools in said township, and one for the future appropriation of the General-Court, to be laid out near the center of said township, and to average in goodness with the other lots therein; and on condition that the said Dummer Sewall, Francis Tufts, and Samuel Butterfield shall pay or give sufficient security to pay to the committee on the subject of unappropriated lands in the counties of York, Cumberland and Lincoln, or to their successors in office, for the use of the commonwealth, the sum of *four hundred pounds*, in specie, within the space of one year from the time of passing this resolve, which committee upon the receipt of said sum of four hundred pounds, or sufficient security therefor, are hereby empowered to make and execute a good and lawful deed to the said Dummer, Francis and Samuel, their heirs and assigns, of the land granted to them in this Resolve, on the conditions, and with the reservations therein contained. ,

“Sent down for concurrence.

THOMAS DAWES, Pres’t pro tem.

“In the House of Representatives, February 4th, 1790.

“Read and concurred.      “DAVID COBB, Speaker.

“A true copy, Attest, JOHN AVERY, Jun., Sec’y.”



The aforesaid Sewall, Tufts and Butterfield gave security to the satisfaction of the Committee and received a deed before they returned home.

Although the purchase of the town was not entirely to the satisfaction of the inhabitants, yet they complied with the provisions of the resolve and received titles to their lands agreeably to the provisions therein specified.

From this time till 1794, when the town was incorporated, they had no particular mode of transacting business. They were never organized as a plantation, but proceeded in regard to roads, schools &c. as individuals were disposed to associate.

In the latter part of 1793, the inhabitants, at a meeting held for that purpose, agreed to petition to be incorporated agreeably to the original survey of the town, and Supply Belcher Esq. was agreed upon to attend the General Court at its next session, with the petition, which was signed by most of the inhabitants. He accordingly attended, and obtained an act of incorporation, which was signed by Samuel Adams, then Lieut. Governor and acting Governor of Massachusetts, on the first day of February, 1794, incorporating the Plantation of Sandy-River, with the inhabitants thereof, into a town by the name of FARMINGTON, (which name was given to the town by Col. Porter, by the consent of the inhabitants,) bounded as follows: viz.—

“Beginning at a maple tree marked, on the easterly side of the Sandy-River, and near the same, at the south-east corner of said plantation, thence running north eight miles and fifty-six rods to a beech tree marked; thence west five miles and two hundred rods to a bass tree marked. [This tree stands a few feet from the original corner made by Mr. North in 1780 for the corner of the Plymouth Claim, marked K. 15 M., on a

small birch tree, denoting 15 miles from the Kennebec River. Stone monuments have since been erected at the several corners and angles of the town, and in most cases on the roads.]—Thence south two miles, thence south thirteen degrees east three miles,\* thence south thirty-five degrees east two miles one hundred and fourteen rods to a hemlock tree marked, thence north sixty-seven degrees east one mile one hundred and ninety rods to the junction of the Little-Norridgewock with the Wilson-Stream to a birch tree marked, K. 15 M. 1780, thence north forty-nine degrees east one mile and ninety rods to the Sandy-River—[The last course has been so altered as to make the Wilson-Stream the line, which varies but little from the former course]—thence down the Sandy-River to the first mentioned bound—estimated to contain 27,000 acres.”

By the act of incorporation William Reed Esq. of Middletown (now Strong) was authorized to call the first meeting of the inhabitants for the choice of such town officers as towns are required to choose in the month of March or April annually, by directing a warrant to some one of the principal inhabitants of the plantation for that purpose.

On the 15th day of March a warrant was issued by said Reed to Moses Starling Esq., requiring him to notify said inhabitants to meet at the dwelling-house of Thomas Flint, (now Wm. Marvel's) in said town, on Monday the 7th day of April, 1794, at 10 o'clock, A. M., for the choice of town, county and state officers. The meeting was organized by the choice of Solomon Adams for Moderator, and Supply Belcher for Town-Clerk. Peter Corbett, Ezekiel Porter and Enoch Craig were chosen Selectmen; Moses Starling, Treasurer, and Benjamin Whittier, Constable and Collector.

The town was represented for the first time in 1798 by Supply Belcher Esq., in 1799 by Col. Ezekiel Porter, and in 1800 by Stephen Titcomb Esq.

In 1809, the town being entitled to two representatives, Supply Belcher Esq. and Nathan Cutler Esq. were elected to that office. Joseph Fairbanks and Josiah Prescott represented the town in the Convention which met at Brunswick in 1816 for the purpose of forming a Constitution, had the requisite number of votes been given in favor of separation from Massachusetts proper.

Nathan Cutler and Jabez Gay were elected delegates to the Convention which met at Portland on the 2nd Monday in October, 1819 for the purpose of forming a Constitution for the State of Maine.

In 1820 Jabez Gay, represented the town in the first legislature of this state.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### ROADS AND MAILS.

The first county-road was laid out from Hallowell, through Chesterville, to the old Fordway, just above the Center-Bridge, and afterwards continued on the west side of the river to Strong. The county-road was laid out on the east side of the river, by Dr. Hubbard and others, in 1793. It was located near the intervale and some parts of the location were altered by the town before it was opened. Subsequently the town has altered the location of other parts of the route, but the whole has been since established by the County-Commissioners, and the

road has been continued across the Fairbanks-Bridge. The principal town roads were laid out and established in 1794 and 1795. Others have since been laid out as occasion required. The Temple road was first laid out by the town in 1802, and afterwards established as a county-road. Various alterations have been made in the old ones, and several new county-roads have been made from time to time as circumstances seemed to require, the most of which have proved to be advantageous.

The mail was first brought from Hallowell to Farmington about 1793, by Zacheus Mayhew. Moses Starling was appointed the first Post-Master. A Mr. Willis had brought newspapers &c. a short time previous. The mail was carried on horse-back till 1829 when the means of conveyance was increased, by a contract with Moses Hanscom, to a two-horse-team. By this contract the mail was to be carried under cover, and continued twice a week till 1841. In 1841 the establishment was increased to a four-horse-team with post-coaches to Farmington, and from thence to Phillips with two horses. This line is now owned by F. V. Stewart, who employs some twenty-four horses, and it is one of the best managed routes in the state.

The mail route from Farmington direct to Portland was established about 1830—was purchased in 1834 by F. V. Stewart, and, in 1838, passed into the hands of Thomas Beede, the present owner. This employs a two-horse team to Minot where it connects with the Hallowell and Augusta line. This furnishes a quick and expeditious conveyance west, by land, and is well managed. Beside those already mentioned there is a cross mail, carried by one horse, passing from Anson, through Farmington to Wilton.



## CHAPTER IX.

## MILLS.

THE first mill, as has been stated, was built by Colburn & Pullen, where the Titcomb Mills now stand.—The saw-mill was set in operation in Nov. 1781, and the grist-mill in August 1782. These mills were injured by the great freshet in 1785, on which account, and on account of the scarcity of water, (the dam being poor as is common in new establishments in new countries,) the inhabitants suffered greatly for want of the facilities for procuring grinding, and were compelled to go to Winthrop to mill, a part of the time, for some years, and frequently with hand-sleds. To remedy this hardship many of them prepared mortars with a spring-pole to raise the pestle, by the help of which they made tolerable meal.

This was the only mill for something like seven or eight years. It was rebuilt by Jacob Eaton and Moses Starling in 1790, and sometime after again rebuilt by Mr. Starling, and more recently by Capt. Davis, and again by Butterfield & Witham in 1836. The first run of stones that was put into this mill was hauled from Winthrop in the winter of 1781. It now has four runs of stones, one of them Burr-stones, with a superior cleanser, and the mill does a good business. The saw-mill was rebuilt at the same time with the grist-mill, both being greatly improved.

The next mills were built by Francis Tufts, at the Falls, on the main river, at the lower end of the town, about 1788, and about 1790 one half was sold to Ebenezer Jones, and the remaining half soon after to Jonathan

Knowlton. Jonathan Russ purchased these mills in 1803. The dam having been carried away, he rebuilt it the same season, and rebuilt the mills in 1804. These mills were burned on the 29th of January, 1813, and rebuilt by John and Henry Russ immediately after. They were carried away by the great freshet in October 1820, and again rebuilt by the same individuals. These mills once suffered some embarrassment for the want of water, occasioned by the owners not having the control of the opposite bank, which has been remedied by the erection of mills on the Chesterville side. This water privilege would be one of the best in the vicinity were it not for great risk in freshets, occasioned by the water being confined to a narrow channel.

Ebenezer Jones built a saw-mill and a grist-mill at the foot of these falls, about 1802. The grist-mill was carried away by the water in 1814, and the saw-mill in 1820. These mills were supplied with water by a canal from the dam at the head of the fall.

David Dwinnel erected a shop on the canal which conveyed the water to the lower mills, with a trip hammer, which was carried away at the same time with the mill.

John Russ having purchased the site where the fulling-mill and carding machine formerly stood, erected a saw-mill which was burned soon after, and another put in operation by Thomas Chase.

The mills commonly known as Morrison's or Keith's Mills were first built by Samuel Sewall, about 1792. They were sold by Mr. Sewall about 1796, and passed into the hands of Edward Lock. Not much attention was bestowed on them for some years after this. The saw-mill, on the Farmington side of the Wilson-Stream, was rebuilt by John Morrison and others, but is not now doing much. The grist-mill is now on the Chesterville

side, the line passing between that and the saw-mill. It is owned by Mr. Davis, by whom it was rebuilt, and it has a liberal business. Here is also a fulling-mill and carding-machine, on the Chesterville side, owned by Joseph Keith, which has been for many years one of the best establishments in this section of the state.

The mills at the upper end of the town, known as Fairbanks'-Mills, were first built by Jason D. Cony, in 1794, and were owned by him and Robert Jones, who owned the privilege. They were situated where Mr. Townsend's bark-mill now stands, in connection with which a saw-mill was afterwards erected. They passed into the hands of Hartson Cony about 1797 or 1798, who commenced digging the canal where the mills now stand. He put up a saw-mill frame, near where the present saw-mill stands, which was carried away by the freshet in June, 1799.

He sold to John Patterson who fitted them up. In the winter of 1801 they were burned. The privilege and remains of the mills were purchased by Joseph Fairbanks, and the mills rebuilt the same season. Col. Fairbanks completed the canal commenced by Mr. Cony, and built a grist-mill where the present one stands, in 1807, and afterwards the saw-mill at the same place. May 14th, 1814, the dam at this place was mostly carried away by the freshet, which was attended with considerable loss to the owner, in the mills, as well as in his store, which was connected at that time. In 1820 the mills were rebuilt by Col. Fairbanks, and greatly improved. At this time he introduced a cleanser, which was the first put in operation in this vicinity.

These mills are now owned by Hiram Belcher and Luther Townsend, who rebuilt them in 1841, with four runs of stones, one of which was shifted, the last season,

for a set of Burr-stones, accompanied with a superior bolt. It will now rank with the first in this section of the state. Its superior location gives it an advantage over many others, and helps to compensate for a lack of water to which it is exposed in severe drouths. The saw-mill is now owned by Mr. Belcher and does a good business.

In 1825 a saw-mill was put in operation by Nathaniel Russell, in the westerly part of the town, on what is called the Starling or Davis Mill-Stream. At his death, in 1827, it passed into the hands of his son Isaac Russell who has run it to good advantage the most of the time since. It is now owned by the Mr. Butterfields—was taken down the last season, and the dam was carried away by the freshet in the fall of last year. It is expected that it will be rebuilt.

This mill can be well supplied with various kinds of lumber, such as hemlock, spruce and some pine, and with various kinds of hard-wood, as is the case with other mills in the town. Pine timber is scarce in every section, but the mills at the lower part of the town procure a considerable amount of pine timber from Chesterville, to which town we are mostly indebted for our pine lumber. Perhaps this deficiency is more than supplied by the superior quality of the soil, which renders the inhabitants more independent than they could have been rendered by application to the lumbering business. Perhaps it may be said with propriety that there is scarcely a lot of land in town that will not admit of a settlement, or on which a man, with industry and economy, might not maintain a family and lay up property.

The first fulling-mill was built by William Allen, in 1792 or 1793, on what is called the Allen-Brook, in the north-east part of the town. The stream not being



sufficient to answer his purpose, he removed his works to the Falls on the main River, where he fitted up a temporary mill in connection with one at that time owned by Jones and Knowlton. Mr. Knowlton soon after put up a fulling-mill which was carried on by Jeremiah Stinchfield and a Mr. Stanley in 1797 and 8; and in 1799 was purchased by Mr. Stinchfield and by him rebuilt. It was carried away by the great freshet of 1820, with the cloth and apparatus, and again rebuilt by him, and enlarged and finished in a superior style. This was the only establishment of the kind on the Sandy River or any of its waters for many years, and had an unusual run of business.

After Mr. Stinchfield's death, in 1824, the business declined, various other mills having been erected in almost every direction. It was afterwards purchased by John Russ and used for the manufacturing of hat bodies and at length removed by him to give place to a saw-mill.

The Carding machine at this place was first built by Blake and Morrill about 1800. It was purchased by John Shaw in 1804 and for some time owned by him and his brother Eben. Shaw, in whose hands it was once partly burned. It was afterwards purchased by David Morrill. It was carried away by the water, in 1820 and again rebuilt by Mr. Morrill. He afterwards removed the machinery to the Chesterville side of the River, where it continues to be run.

In 1810 a fulling-mill was put in operation on the Fairbank's mill Stream, by Enoch Wood and Luke Perkins of Winthrop, which was, in connection with a carding-machine, owned by John and Eben. Shaw of this town. They had a good run of business for some years, and passed through various hands, when the

building became decayed. They were never rebuilt. Samuel Emery carried on the fulling-mill and Daniel Davis the carding-machine the most of the time.

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## CHAPTER X.

### MEETING HOUSES.

THE first meeting house was built at the Falls by the Methodist society about 1800, the upper story was never finished. Jonathan Knowlton and Stephen Titcomb were among those who took the most active part in the erection of the house. It was suffered to go to decay and by degrees became useless, it has recently been taken down.

The new meeting house at this place was raised in 1826 and finished the year following, it is owned by the different religious societies, is free to all under certain regulations, viz; that no religious society shall be excluded, but any one may occupy it by posting up a written notice on the door of said house at any time within four weeks of the appointment when there is no prior appointment. But no one society is to occupy it more than one Sabbath in four to the exclusion of others.

The first meeting house at the centre of the town, was raised in June 1803, and finished soon after except the gallery pews which were not completed for some years. This house was built by a voluntary association of individuals of different societies who chose David Moors their treasurer. The site on which the house stands was given to the society by Mr. John Church 1st

in 1802 (except the burying ground for which they paid \$15.) This site contains two acres of land, embracing the Common and Burying-ground and was deeded by said Church to Mr. Moors as treasurer of the Society and his successors in that Office, July 13th, 1802, the house was built by selling the pews to the highest bidders, who gave their confessions to the Treasurer to be paid in assessments to be made by the Treasurer as the money should be needed to meet the contracts made by the society, which were made by a majority of the whole at their meetings. The house and land cost about two thirds of what the pews sold for, exclusive of the gallery pews, the sale of which paid for finishing them. The remaining third was never paid in.

The Society obtained an act of incorporation, which was passed February 6, 1822, for the purpose of confirming their title and the better management of their concerns. The steeple to this house was erected in 1827 by voluntary subscription, the porches at each end, with which it was originally built, being then removed. The house was occupied by the different religious societies in town in proportion to their respective interest in the same as regulated by the bye-laws of the society for many years. In 1838 the several societies having built separate houses, ceased to occupy the old one, it now became nearly useless (except for town-meetings for which it has usually been occupied) the society anticipating a transfer of certain privileges in it to the county of Franklin (which was organized at this time,) for county purposes and it being doubted by some whether the society had a right to apply it to any other purpose than that of a meeting house for religious worship, Mr. Church executed a deed of quit-claim on the 27th day of February 1838 to the Society of the whole site for public buildings, while it

might be used for a Court-House, Town, or Meeting House, the Common on the west side of the road to remain and be used as a common, and the burying ground to remain for the same purpose to which it had been appropriated, in consideration of which deed, and Mr. Church's former liberality the society paid his widow two hundred dollars, (he having deceased) on the 27th day of June 1839, the Society deeded to the inhabitants of the county of Franklin, the aforesaid house, with the site on which it stands extending from the road to the burying ground, reserving a pass way through the same to the burying ground, and the use of the lower floor for town or other meetings while the present house may remain, but the county to have the right to fit up and improve the upper story for a Court-House at their discretion, or to take down the present house and rebuild at their pleasure, their title to cease whenever a Court-House shall be built on any other site.

In the fall of 1830 a number of individuals were organized into a society for the purpose of building a meeting house to accommodate the north and westerly part of the town known as the Farmington north Meeting-House Society, and the season following built what is more commonly called the brick Meeting-House, near the upper bridge at an expense of about \$1400, which was defrayed by the sale of the pews, being 40 by 50 and containing 62 pews, and singing gallery.

By the constitution of this Society, the different religious societies owning, have a right to occupy in proportion to the number of pews by them respectively owned, the house was mostly built by the Methodist society who have supplied preaching as far as it has been occupied. The Freewill Baptists who own the residue, having built a house at the center village, soon after the erection of this.



where the society is much better convened. The Methodist society having since become divided the house is now occupied alternately by the Episcopal and Wesleyan Methodists.

The Freewill Baptist Meeting-House at the center village was built in 1835, at an expense of \$1250 including the site, which was defrayed by the sale of the pews. It is built of brick in the present style of building, 36 by 43 and contains 48 pews.

The Baptist Meeting-House is situated at the Center Village, was commenced in 1835, and completed the following season. It is also of brick 42 1-2 by 68 contains 62 pews with a vestry on the same floor which serves as an entry to the body of the house and to communicate with the gallery, which is very pleasant, the building being of an extra height. It is supplied with an organ at a cost of \$250.

The structure of the house is good; it is furnished with a belfry, but no bell; it cost about \$5000 which expense was defrayed by the sale of the pews except \$600 which was appropriated from the funds of the society, and perhaps \$200 by voluntary subscription or donation. It has a commanding prospect, and with the academy, adds much to the appearance of the village, being on the same eminence.

The Congregational House was erected in 1836, near the lower part of the village. This is also of brick, 42 feet by 54, a very neat and convenient house, but small for the congregation that usually attends. Its original cost, including the lot, was about \$3000 dollars, which was mostly paid from the sale of the pews. It has a belfry and is furnished with a bell, the expense of which was met by voluntary subscription in which Jacob Abbot Esq. was a liberal donor.

Arrangements have been made to enlarge this house the present season by an addition of 15 feet, which will add 20 pews, making 76 in the whole, at an expense of eight hundred dollars, two hundred of which will go for repairs and alterations in the present house, leaving the entire cost of the building at about \$3,500. This house is furnished with a number of sheds for the reception of carriages.

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## CHAPTER XI.

### ACADEMY.

FARMINGTON ACADEMY was incorporated February, 13, 1807. The following persons constituted the board of trustees by the Charter. Dea. Church Brainard, Nathan Cutler, Esq, Mr. Thomas Hiscock, Ezekiel Porter Esq, Mr. Timothy Smith, Dr. Ebenezer Taylor, Stephen Titcomb Esq., Thomas Wendell Esq., all of Farmington, Benjamin Abbot, Esq. of Temple, Ebenezer Eaton Esq. of Wilton, Thomas Fillebrown of Hallowell, Dr. Thomas Flint of New-Vineyard, John Hovey Esq. of Mount-Vernon, William Read Esq. of Strong, and Rev. Jotham Sewall of Chesterville.

The charter provides that the number of trustees shall never be less than nine, nor more than fifteen, five of whom at least shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. It allows the trustees to hold real estate the income of which shall not exceed ten thousand dollars annually, and personal estate the income of which shall not exceed three thousand dollars annually.

The first meeting of the trustees under the charter was held April 14, 1807, and organized by the choice of William Read Esq. as president, Nathan Cutler secretary, and Church Brainard treasurer.

The trustees had no funds except the voluntary subscriptions of individuals. Relying on these they proceeded to erect the frame of the present building in the fall of 1808, which, in the succeeding three years was so far completed that instruction was commenced in it the first of January, 1812, by Mr. James Hall, at a salary of \$400 for one year. Since this time the school has been continued most of the time.

By a resolve of the legislature of Massachusetts, passed February 17, 1812, a grant was made of one half of a township of land, six miles square, to the trustees, to be selected from any of the unappropriated lands belonging to the state; and the land-agent was authorized to lay out the same subject to the usual reservations. In 1822 the trustees received a conveyance of the south half of township No 5, in the 5th Range west of the Bingham Kennebec Purchase, in the County of Oxford, containing 11,520 acres subject to a reservation of 480 acres. The creditors of the institution, by an agreement, took the amount of their respective claims in land, in the township, at the appraisal of the surveyor, who valued it at 35 cents an acre on an average. The residue of the land was sold at auction for from 24 to 30 cents an acre.

The amount added to the funds of the institution by the sale of the land was small. The whole amount of the funds, at the present time, exclusive of the building and lot, is not far from \$1500.

This institution has suffered considerably from the embarrassed state of its funds, owing to considerable loss in the subscription raised for its encouragement, and be-

ing unfortunate in the selection of the land appropriated by the state. It is now furnished with an extensive philosophical apparatus, and retains a very respectable standing as a literary institution, for which it is much indebted to its superior location, the prudent and economical management of the trustees and the superior talent and untiring exertion of the preceptor.

The records do not show the names of all who have been employed from time to time as teachers. The following names and dates appear:—

James Hall	1812 to 1814
Otis Briggs	1814 to 1815
N. G. Howard	1816
Joseph Caldwell	1817 to 1818
Moses S. Moody	1818 to 1819
William A. Drew	1820 to
Nathaniel Green	1823 to 1830
David Worcester	
M. Upham	
John J. Butler	1837 to 1839
O. B. Cheney	1839 to 1841
Alexander H. Abbot	1841 to present time.

The following statement shows the names of the trustees, the date of their appointment, when their places were vacated, and how they were vacated.

Church Brainard, by charter in 1807—1828 Resigned

Nathan Cutler	„	„	
Thomas Hiscock	„	„	1814 Resigned
Ezekiel Porter	„	„	1814 Absence
Timothy Smith	„	„	1818 Died
Ebenezer Taylor	„	„	1808 By vote
Stephen Titcomb	„	„	1811 Resigned
Thomas Wendell	„	„	



Benjamin Abbot	„	„	1816	Resigned
Ebenezer Eaton	„	„	1838	Died
Thomas Fillebrown	„	„	1821	Resigned
Thomas Flint	„	„	1845	Age
John Hovey	„	„		Resigned
William Read	„	„		Died
Jotham Sewall	„	„	1837	Resigned
Joseph S. Smith,	appointed	1808		Absence
Thomas Johnson Jr.		1811	1828	By vote
Oliver Bailey		1814		Died
Josiah Prescott		1815		
Sylvester Strickland		1817		Resigned
William Gould		1818		Died
Joseph Fairbanks		1821		Died
Isaac Rogers		1827	1833	Resigned
John Corbett		1828	1845	Resigned
Isaac Tyler		1828		
James Butterfield		1828	1845	Resigned
John Read		1828		Died
Robert Goodenow		1832		
Asa Abbot		1832		
John Russ		1832		Died
Charles Morse		1835	1845	Died
Ebenezer Childs		1835		
Jacob Abbot			1845	Resigned
Lafayette Perkins		1845		
Holmes A. Boardman	„		1846	Died
Moses Sherburne	„			
George Gage	„			
William Cothren	„			
John L. Cutler	„			
Samuel Belcher	„			

There is also in the village a family school, for boys, which was established by Rev. Samuel P. Abbott in 1844. The situation of the house and grounds is very favorable for the health of the pupils, and for their progress in study, being quiet and retired, and affording every opportunity for healthy recreation.

The terms are \$150 per year of 46 weeks. This includes every charge except for traveling expenses, clothing, postage bill, classical books, medical attendance in case of sickness; and any incidental expenses, which may be incurred at the request or by the permission of parents. Pupils are received at any time, and are charged in proportion to the time of their connection with the school. No deduction is made for absence of less than one week.

Payments are made quarterly and in advance when convenient.

The only regular vacation commences on the first Monday in May, and continues six weeks.

Mr. Abbott endeavors to exert over his pupils, the government of a christian parent, and he expects them to be under his entire direction and control, except so far as he receives specific directions from those who entrust them to his care. The present number of pupils is seventeen.

## CHAPTER XII.

## PUBLIC FUNDS.

In 1811, agreeably to a petition of the town, Oliver Bailey, Elijah Norton, Nathan Cutler and Timothy Johnson were incorporated into a body politic, by the name of the Trustees of the Farmington Ministerial and School Funds, with power to sell and convey the ministerial and school lands belonging to the town and to put at use the moneys arising from the sale of the same, as soon as might be; the interest arising from the money due for the ministerial lands to be annually appropriated to the support of the Gospel ministry in said town in the same way and manner as the income and profits of said ministerial land would by law be appropriated if this law had not been passed. And the interest arising on any money due for school lands, to be annually appropriated for the use of the public free schools in the town, it never being in the power of the trustees or town to alter or alienate the appropriation of the Funds aforesaid. This act passed February 5th, 1811.

At the first meeting of the trustees, Oliver Bailey was chosen president of the board, Nathan Cutler Treasurer and Timothy Johnson clerk. The board was then filled up by the choice of Moses Candler, Jabez Gay and Jesse Gould, making seven in the whole, any four of whom were to form a quorum for doing business, agreeably to the act of incorporation.

The whole of said lands have been sold at different periods: the total amount of sales amounting to:—

Ministerial fund \$1297,88, Interest, 77,87.

School fund \$1449,25, Interest, 86,95.

The income arising from the school fund has been annually applied to the support of free schools in the town agreeably to the original design of the appropriation made by the state.

In 1824, The land reserved for the first settled minister was sold by the board of town officers, agreeably to the directions of the Town; an act having been passed by the Legislature of this State on the 12th day of February 1824, making them a body corporate for that purpose and declaring the lands vested in the inhabitants where trustees had not already been appointed, and the lands become otherwise vested.

The lands were sold, and the securities received amounted to \$1368,08 bearing date the 15th day of May 1824, by the provisions of the before named act the Interest accruing from this fund was to be added to the principal annually, and the whole kept at interest for the original purpose.

This fund was kept at interest and managed according to the foregoing regulations until September 10, 1832. The interest arising on the former fund raised from the sale of the land reserved for the use of the ministry, having been divided by the town equally between the different religious societies therein up to the same time, and by them appropriated for the support of preaching.

An act was passed by the Legislature of this State on the 11th day of February 1832 authorizing the inhabitants of said town to distribute the proceeds of the land reserved for the first settled ministers equally among the six following religious societies in said town, viz. the Congregational, Baptist; F. W. Baptist, Methodist, Universalist, and Unitarian, but there being some doubts entertained as



to the constitutionality of the law, it was thought advisable to settle a minister by the first Parish which was organized on the 10th day of September 1832, at a meeting duly called for that purpose, when it was agreed to give the Rev. Timothy Johnson a call to become their pastor on condition of his giving his consent to an equal distribution of the whole of said ministerial fund, excepting therefrom fifty dollars (which he was to retain for his own personal benefit,) among the six following religious societies, viz, the Congregational, Baptist, F. W. Baptist, Methodist, Universalist and Unitarians, to be by them received and managed at their discretion, and for their individual benefit, Mr. Johnson having signified his acceptance, the parish passed a vote confirming the sale of the lands, and also giving their consent to the foregoing arrangement, which was accordingly carried into effect by the proper officers and the funds transferred into the hands of agents chosen by the town, in trust, for the aforesaid Societies, and by them passed over to the several Societies, and by them have been appropriated for their individual benefit, amounting to \$636,17 to each Society.

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## CHAPTER XIII.

### BRIDGES.

The first bridge across the Sandy-River was built by Benj. Butler at the Centre of the town, on a road laid on the dividing line between John Church and the Mr. Stoyell's being a continuation of the Perham road west across the river, thence northerly round the hill to intersect the county road near where Jedediah Thomas for-

merly lived, the whole of which has since been discontinued. It was begun in 1805 and completed 1808, on a contract made by Ezekiel Porter and Timothy Johnson who were to pay the said Butler \$1000 on the completion of the same; some small part was paid by subscription; the bridge was damaged by water in 1812, and repaired by the town; it was rendered impassible by the freshet of 1814; the road on the intervalle was much damaged, and it was soon after discontinued.

The second bridge was built at the Falls about 1808, by voluntary subscription; a part of it was carried away by the freshet of 1814, and was repaired by the town. It was wholly carried away by the great freshet of 1820, and again rebuilt the winter following by this town and Chesterville, (the latter town builds and keeps in repair about one third part of this bridge.) The most of this bridge was again carried away, and the part in this town rebuilt at the expense of the town by John Russ, in 1827, and again by the same person in the winter of 1828, and again in 1831, at an expense of \$1300, and covered. Since that time \$250 only have been expended.

The third bridge was built in 1811 at the upper part of the town (commonly called the Fairbanks Bridge) by subscription, and accepted by the town in 1813 free of any expense, in May 1814 the most of it was carried away by the water; it was rebuilt by the town in 1815, and was some damaged by the great freshet in October 1820 and again repaired by the town. In the winter of 1826 it was rebuilt by John Russ on a warrant for ten years for the sum of \$890; it was once partially rebuilt by him in the time. It was built with stone abutments and covered in 1838 at an expense of \$1800, and destroyed by the ice the winter following, and again built in its present form at an expense of \$600 in 1839, and again re-

built in part in 1842, since which time it has undergone some repairs.

The first bridge built where the one now stands at the centre of the town, was in 1818; \$479,91 was paid by subscription, and \$1357,21 by the town, making the cost of it \$1837,12. In 1820 it was some damaged by the great freshet, and repaired by the town, and again in 1827 and extended in length; it was rebuilt, 1831, at an expense of \$2117,00, the road from the east abutment being filled to the high bank. It fell in 1841, and was rebuilt the same year at an expense of \$700. The east abutment was injured by the November freshet 1845, and has since been rebuilt.

The town has a substantial brick magazine for the deposite of military stores, which was built in 1817, but is now of little use as, by the present laws, the town is not required to keep such stores on hand.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

### TAN-YARDS.

THE first tan-yard was commenced by Ebenezer Sweet about 1785, a few rods south-west of the site on which the Congregational Meeting-house now stands, which was the first tannery this side of Winthrop.

Samuel Sewall commenced tanning at the lower end of the town soon after Mr. Sweet, and Samuel Pool about the same time, near Mr. Sweet on the farm now owned by Jacob Abbot Esq.

Messrs. Baker and Hopkinson constructed a tannery

at the yard afterwards owned by Joseph Knowlton, in 1805. Mr. Baker soon after sold out to Mr. Hopkinson and removed to Wilton. Mr. Hopkinson continued to carry on the business with success till 1818 when he sold to Mr. Knowlton and removed to Ohio. Mr. Knowlton made considerable improvement, and continued the business with apparent success until 1842, when he failed in business and went to Indiana, where he has since removed his family. It is now improved by a Mr. Taylor.

Elijah Butler built a tannery on the farm now owned by James Presson at the upper part of the town about the same time. He continued the business for some time; it then passed into the hands of his son, Winthrop Butler, who continued the business until near his death, in 1835, since which time, the buildings have been taken away and the yard has become extinct.

Luther Townsend began the establishment now owned by him in the upper section of the town in 1810; the dam connected with the bark-mill was carried away by the water in 1827 and his yard much injured. He has since rebuilt it with considerable improvement. He has a bark-mill which goes by water. Mr. Townsend has since turned his attention to farming, and the tannery is now managed by his son, Samuel O. Townsend.

Joshua Adams commened the tannery formerly owned by him at the Center-Village, in 1828 where he did considerable business until the present season. He has removed to Wilton.

The yard now owned and improved by Charles Hutchins was put in operation by Henry Brooks in about 1835, in connection with Apollos Osgood.



fruitfulness of some of the seasons. Since that time it has increased not only in numbers but in wealth and every kind of business equal if not superior to any village in the state, destitute of water power, and situated so far from water communication.

There are now at this village, 86 dwelling houses; 14 stores; 4 milliner's shops; 18 mechanic's shops; 5 law offices; 1 brick school house; 3 brick meeting houses; an Academy; a Boarding School; Court House; Jail, and a fire proof building, containing the several County Offices, and Post Office; a tannery; boot and shoe factory, and 3 saddle and harness makers; 4 blacksmiths; 1 carriage and sleigh maker; 2 tin factories; 7 lawyers; 3 physicians; 2 tailors; 1 printing establishment; 1 provision shop; 4 cabinet and chair makers; some 6 or 8 house joiners; and a proportionate number of shoemakers and other mechanics.

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## CHAPTER XIX.

### TOWN OFFICERS.

The following is a list of town-officers, from the incorporation of the town to the present time.

1794. Supply Belcher, clerk; Moses Starling, treasurer; Peter Corbett, Ezekiel Porter, Enoch Craig, selectmen.

1795. Solomon Adams, clerk; Moses Starling, treasurer; Peter Corbett, Ezekiel Porter, Enoch Craig, selectmen.

1796. Solomon Adams, clerk; Moses Starling, trea-

surer; Peter Corbett, Jotham Smith, Supply Belcher, selectmen.

1797. Solomon Adams, clerk; Moses Starling, treasurer; Peter Corbett, Jotham Smith, Supply Belcher, selectmen.

1798. Solomon Adams, clerk; Moses Starling, treasurer; Peter Corbett, Ezekiel Porter, Jotham Smith, selectmen; Supply Belcher, representative.

1799. Solomon Adams, clerk; Moses Starling, treasurer; Peter Corbett, Ezekiel Porter, Jotham Smith, selectmen; Ezekiel Porter, representative.

1800. Solomon Adams, clerk; Moses Starling, treasurer; Peter Corbett, Ezekiel Porter, Jotham Smith, selectmen; Stephen Titcomb, representative.

1801. Solomon Adams, clerk; Church Brainard, treasurer; Benj. Whittier, John Holly, Ebenezer Norton, selectmen; Jonathan Cushman, Thomas Hiscock, Thomas Wendell, assessors; Supply Belcher, representative.

1802. Henry Vassal Chamberlain, clerk; Church Brainard, treasurer; Solomon Adams, Jonathan Cushman, Thomas Hiscock, selectmen; (Voted not to send a representative.)

1803. Church Brainard, clerk; Church Brainard, treasurer; Reuben Lowell, Enoch Craig, Elijah Norton, selectmen; (dismissed the article relative to representative.)

1804. Church Brainard, clerk; John Holly, treasurer; Elijah Norton, John F. Woods, Jabez Gay, selectmen; Ebenezer Norton, representative.

1805. Church Brainard, clerk; Zechariah Norton, treasurer; Elijah Norton, John F. Woods, Samuel Lovejoy, selectmen; Ezekiel Porter, representative.

1806. Church Brainard, clerk; Ezekiel Porter, treasu-

rer; John F. Woods, Oliver Bailey, Lemuel Perham, selectmen: Moses Chandler, representative.

1807. Church Brainard, clerk; Solomon Adams, treasurer; Elijah Norton, Oliver Bailey, Thomas Wendell, selectmen; Zechariah Norton, representative.

1808. Church Brainard, clerk; Solomon Adams, treasurer; Oliver Bailey, Thomas Wendell, Jeremiah Stinchfield, selectmen; Samuel Butterfield, representative.

1809. Church Brainard, clerk; Thomas Hiscock, treasurer; Oliver Bailey, Elijah Norton, Jonathan Russ, selectmen; Supply Belcher, Nathan Cutler, representatives.

1810. Church Brainard, clerk; Timothy Johnson, treasurer; Oliver Bailey, Elijah Norton, William Gould, selectmen; Nathan Cutler, Joseph Norton, representatives.

1811. Church Brainard, clerk; Nathan Cutler, treasurer; Leonard Merry, Thomas D. Blake, Oliver Bailey, selectmen; Nathan Cutler, Timothy Johnson, representatives.

1812. Church Brainard, clerk; Nathan Cutler, treasurer; Leonard Merry, John F. Woods, Jere. Stinchfield, selectmen; Leonard Merry, Timothy Johnson, representatives.

1813. Church Brainard, clerk; Nathan Cutler, treasurer; Leonard Merry, John F. Woods, Jere. Stinchfield, selectmen; Leonard Merry, Asahel Gross, representatives.

1814. Hiram Belcher, clerk; Nathan Cutler, treasurer; Jere. Stinchfield, Job Brooks, Oliver Bailey, selectmen; (voted not to send representatives.)

1815. Hiram Belcher, clerk; Joseph Fairbanks, treasurer; Jeremiah Stinchfield, Job Brooks, Stephen Titcomb, selectmen; (voted not to send representatives.)

1816. Hiram Belcher, clerk; Joseph Fairbanks, treasurer; Jeremiah Stinchfield, Job Brooks, Stephen Titcomb, selectmen; (meeting adjourned without day.)

1817. Hiram Belcher, clerk; Joseph Fairbanks, treasurer; Joseph Fairbanks, James Butterfield, Jotham Smith, selectmen; (voted not to send representatives.)

1818. Hiram Belcher, clerk; Enoch Craig, treasurer; Joseph Fairbanks, Thomas Parker, Benj. Butler, selectmen: (voted not to send representatives.)

1819. Hiram Belcher, clerk; Enoch Craig, treasurer; Joseph Fairbanks, James Butterfield, John Russ, selectmen: Nathan Cutler, Joseph Fairbanks, representatives.

1820. Nathan Cutler, clerk: Enoch Craig, treasurer; Joseph Fairbanks, James Butterfield, John Russ, selectmen: Jabez Gay, representative.

1821. Thomas Parker, clerk: Enoch Craig, treasurer; James Butterfield, John Morrison; Joseph Fairbanks, selectmen: Hiram Belcher, representative.

1822. Thomas Parker, clerk: Joseph Titcomb, treasurer: John Morrison, Benj. M. Belcher, Thomas Parker, selectmen: William Gould, representative.

1823. Thomas Parker, clerk: Joseph Titcomb, treasurer: Thomas Parker, Benj. M. Belcher, Jere. Stinchfield, selectmen: James Butterfield, representative.

1824. Thomas Parker, clerk: Joseph Titcomb, treasurer: Jeremiah Stinchfield, (deceased March 15,) Benj. M. Belcher, (deceased March 15,) Joseph Fairbanks jr., Thomas Parker, Nathaniel Woods, selectmen: James Butterfield, representative.

1825. Thomas Parker, clerk: Joseph Titcomb, treasurer: Joseph Fairbanks jr., Thomas Parker, John Russ, selectmen: Edward Butler, representative.

1826. Thomas Parker, clerk: Joseph Titcomb, treasurer: Joseph Fairbanks jr., Thomas Parker, John Russ, selectmen: Edward Butler, representative.

1827. Thomas Parker, clerk; Joseph Titcomb, trea-



suror; Thomas Parker, John Russ, John Church, selectmen; Joseph Johnson, representative.

1828. Thomas Parker, clerk; Joseph Titcomb, treasurer; Thomas Parker, John Russ, John Church jr., selectmen; Hiram Belcher, representative.

1829. Timothy Johnson, clerk; Edward Butler, treasurer; John Russ, James Butterfield, Francis Butler, selectmen; Joseph Johnson, representative.

1830. Timothy Johnson, clerk; Edward Butler, treasurer; John Russ, James Butterfield, Francis Butler, selectmen; John Russ, representative.

1831. Timothy Johnson, clerk; Isaac Tyler, treasurer; James Butterfield, Francis Butler, Samuel Stanley, selectmen; Hiram Belcher, representative.

1832. Isaac Tyler, clerk; Moses Butterfield, treasurer; James Butterfield, Francis Butler, Samuel Stanley, selectmen; Francis Butler, representative.

1833. Isaac Tyler, clerk; Thomas Hunter, treasurer; Thomas Parker, Henry Johnson, Isaac Tyler, selectmen; Isaac Tyler, representative.

1834. Isaac Tyler, clerk; Thomas Hunter, treasurer; Thomas Parker, Francis Butler, John Russ, selectmen; Moses Butterfield, representative.

1835. Timothy Johnson, clerk; Francis Butler, treasurer; Thomas Parker, Samuel Stanley, James Butterfield, selectmen; Joseph Russel, representative,

1836. Hiram B. Stoyell, clerk; Thomas Hunter, treasurer; Thomas Parker, Joseph Fairbanks, John Morrison, selectmen; Samuel Stanley, representative.

1837. Hiram B. Stoyell, clerk; Thomas Hunter, treasurer; Thomas Parker, Samuel B. Norton, Benj. Sampson, selectmen; Josiah Prescott, representative.

1838. Samuel Belcher, clerk; Samuel Stanley, trea-

surer; John Jewett, Moses Chandler, Alanson B. Caswell, selectmen; Samuel B. Norton, representative.

1839. Samuel Belcher, clerk, Samuel Stanley, treasurer; James Butterfield, Joseph Fairbanks, Alanson B. Caswell, selectmen; Alanson B. Caswell, representative.

1840. Samuel Belcher, clerk, Amasa Corbett, treasurer; Alanson B. Caswell, Brilsford Pease, William Tufts, selectmen; Samuel Belcher, representative.

1841. Zechariah T. Milliken, clerk; Amasa Corbett, treasurer; Alanson B. Caswell, Brilsford Pease, Eliab Eaton, selectmen; Moses Chandler, representative.

1842. Charles E. Johnson, clerk; Alexander Hillman, treasurer; Samuel Stanley, Eliab Eaton, Amasa Corbett, selectmen; John Jewett, representative.

1843. Charles E. Johnson, clerk; Alexander Hillman, treasurer; Samuel Stanley, Eliab Eaton, Amasa Corbett, selectmen; classed with Temple, not represented in the legislature, Nathan Cutler chosen representative April 29, 1844.

1844. Albert G. Wheeler, clerk; Samuel Stanley, treasurer; Amasa Corbett, Alvan Currier, Moses Chandler, selectmen; classed with Temple, James A. Dunsmore of Temple representative.

1845. Albert G. Wheeler, clerk; Peter P. Tufts, treasurer; Moses Chandler, Alvan Currier, Henry Russ, selectmen; Eliab Eaton of Farmington, representative.

1846. Albert G. Wheeler, clerk; Francis G. Butler, treasurer, Samuel Stanley; Peter P. Tufts, Henry Clark, selectmen; Peter R. Tufts, representative.

## CHAPTER XX.

## FREEWILL BAPTISTS.

The valley of the Sandy River, although settled by a moral and to some extent a religious community was to a great extent for some years after the first settlement commenced, destitute of the means of forming and sustaining a proper organization for religious worship on the Sabbath. The first preacher who visited the place was the Rev. Mr. Emerson, of Georgetown, who by the request of Mrs. Stephen Titecomb made them a visit and preached the first sermon in the then almost entire wilderness of the Sandy River, in their log house. After this the place was visited by the Rev Mr. Little of that part of Wells now Kennebunk as a missionary who was followed by some others, in the summer of 1794 the Rev. Joseph Thaxter from Edgerton Mass. under the patronage of the Mass. Missionary Society pretty extensively explored the valley of the Sandy River and attended to the distribution of books to some of the most destitute of the inhabitants. Some few years prior to this Elder Eliphalet Smith, a Baptist preacher, from Fayette, attended some few meetings in the place.

In the summer of 1792, Elder Edward Lock who had previously been pastor of a large and independent church in Loudon and Canterbury N. H. (of the same sentiments of Benjamin Randal the founder of the Freewill Baptist connection) who with most of them joined the Shakers but had subsequently left them, removed to this state and settled in what is now Chesterville, established Sabbath appointments at the dwelling house of Moses Starling Esq.

on the west; and at a barn on the farm now owned by deacon John Bailey on the east side of the river. There was no particular interest manifest until near the close of the year, when Oliver Billings (since Elder Billings) made a visit to the family of Mr. J. Everet a relative of his on the west side of the river. Mr. Billings had very recently been brought to the knowledge of the truth in a most powerful reformation then in progress in what was then called Starling, (now Fayette) such was the change in his deportment, and such the interest and affection with which he recommended to others the blessing so undeservedly (to use his own expression) bestowed upon him, that it was the means in the hands of God of carrying conviction, not only to some of the family, but to many in the neighborhood, who were hopefully brought to a saving knowledge of the truth: thus from the faithful yet humble labors of a private individual proceeded one of the most extensive revivals ever witnessed in this section of the state. Mr. Billings soon after became an efficient minister of the baptist church.

From the commencement, the revival continued to increase. Elder Lock proceeded to baptize a number not long after, among whom was Josiah Everet\*, Reuben Turner, John F. Woods and Joseph Sylvester with their wives and Francis Tufts, Joseph Holland, Abigail Bradford and some others, who proceeded to unite in church fellowship, together with Elder Lock, on the 29th day of March 1793, Elder Lock taking the particular oversight of the church, Francis Tufts and John F. Woods were appointed ruling elders, (this office has since been discontinued in the connection,) Joseph Sylvester deacon, and Joseph Holland clerk. In September following Elder Benjamin

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\*Mr. Everet is the only individual now living, who was embodied in the Freewill Baptist Church in this town at its commencement.



Randal of New-Durham, N. H., who was, under God, the founder of the first Freewill Baptist Church in New Hampshire, and afterwards in Maine, after attending the yearly meeting at Edgecomb and visiting those churches already formed, traveled up the Sandy River, who with others, as a committee from the yearly meeting, after a proper examination proceeded to extend the right hand of fellowship to the church already formed, as a sister church in the Freewill Baptist denomination, on the 23d day of September 1793, who were then constituted what was then called a monthly meeting, which was represented for the first time, in the yearly meeting held at Gorham on the 25th of October following. This was the first church formed in this state east of Gorham or north of Woolwich and Edgecomb. From this beginning have proceeded the most of the Kennebec and Penobscot yearly meetings, now numbering 15 yearly meetings, 255 churches, 176 ordained and 37 licensed preachers, and 12147 communicants. At this time the revival continued on the increase, additions were made to the church in this place, and branches formed at West-Pond (now Belgrade) and Seven-Mile Brook (now Embden and Anson,) which afterwards became separate churches.

In September, 1794, Elder Randal in company with Elder John Buzzel again visited the Sandy-River, embodied a church at the Upper-Town (now Phillips) which constituted a separate monthly meeting: on their return, Elder Randal preached on the Sabbath, being the 28th, at Deacon Tufts', at the lower part of the town, and attended to the administration of the Lord's Supper, supposed to be the first time that the ordinance was administer-

ed in the town. Elder Buzzel preached the same day at Starks, where a reformation was then in progress.

At the yearly meeting held on the 6th of this month at Edgecomb, the Edgecomb and Farmington quarterly meetings were both established, and their respective bounds defined, that of Farmington to comprise all the churches belonging to the connection north of Edgecomb and east of the Androscoggin River, except Lewiston, Edgecomb, all the sea-shore east of Brunswick, and Lewiston.

Elder Jesse Lee was appointed by the New-England conference to travel in the province of Maine for the conference year of 1793, preached in this town for the first time on the 15th of October of that year. At the succeeding conference in 1794 two preachers were appointed to travel on the circuit laid out by him in the year previous; and who arrived here in the latter part of the year and took part in the revival then in progress, and who, with Samuel Sewall, then living in the south part of the town, and who had established society meetings in the place,—rendered essential service in the establishment of such a Christian influence as has never been effaced, and laid the foundation for the establishment of several churches of different denominations, which have since been embodied.

The revival which had been in progress nearly two years, was still on the increase, and had extended into almost every section of the country then settled, in some instances interesting almost the entire population.

Additions continued to be made to the church which now numbered something near forty in all. Besides those already named may be reckoned Joseph, Elisha, Moses, Sarah, Huldah and Polly Bradford, David Wentworth and wife, Isaac Powers and wife, Dolly Craig,

Joseph Riant and wife, Elisha Gay, John Tufts, and Pruda Parker, of this town, and Isaac, Ebenezer and Eliphalet Brown, Job and Eliphalet Hardy, of Wilton, in which direction the church continued to increase.

In 1796, Joseph Sylvester, having left, Isaac Brown and Elisha Gay were chosen deacons. They had taken early means to provide funds, which it was agreed should be raised upon principles of equality, not only for the maintenance of the ministry but to afford relief to such of the church as were in needy or distressing circumstances.

They took the New-Testament as their only rule of faith and practice, and were well agreed in its application to the church of Christ.

In 1798 the church had become so extended in territory as to render it necessary to establish three Sabbath appointments and church conferences, which were alternately attended, at Isaac Brown's in Wilton, at J. F. Woods, and David Wentworth's in Farmington, for some years, which appointments were generally well attended by the members from each section, who generally came through the woods on foot, by spotted lines at first, and afterwards by a poor road.

Elder Lock who had continued to take the oversight of the church up to near this time, although possessed of more than ordinary mind, and talent, and apparently zealous in the cause of truth, never perhaps possessed that disinterested devotedness to the cause of the Redeemer necessary in a minister of the gospel, to be truly useful in the building up of the church of God, as he soon attempted to create a schism in the churches by introducing a plan for forming a community of Christians, which were to have all things in common,

their property to be thrown into one common stock, with himself to control, if not to possess the whole.

He partially succeeded in drawing up a platform, and in the drawing off of a few, but when his plan was more fully understood, it resulted in an entire failure, and he soon lost the confidence of the Christian public by a course of life which not only lessened his influence as a preacher of the gospel, but ended in the prostration of his moral character. His connection with the church was dissolved about 1800, and never after renewed. He died in Embden, in 1824, aged 82.

While these troubles were in progress the church established society meetings and regularly sustained them. Ebenezer Brown, a man of deep piety, and who possessed an acceptable gift, rendered essential service in sustaining public worship, and, during this period, they were sometimes visited by the Western Elders, and they had preaching occasionally from other sources.

Ebenezer Scales was ordained in October, 1804, and Ebenezer Brown in May following, both members of this church. The practice of preaching at this period had more of an itinerant character than at present, and produced a more general circulation of public gifts.

The church having increased very considerably, and embracing this town and Wilton, it was divided in 1807, when separate Sabbath appointments and church conferences were established in each town.

Elder Beniah Pratt was ordained on the 17th of Oct., 1807, who, with Elder Timothy Johnson, took the particular oversight of the church for some time. Isaac Perkins and Jedediah Thomas acted as deacons for the time being, and in 1814 Elisha Gay and Isaac Perkins



were set apart to that office, and in 1818 John Corbett was appointed and Isaac Perkins was continued, and after Deacon Corbett ceased to officiate, Deacon Gay again filled the office, which he continued to fill till his death, in 1842, having been a member of the church nearly 48 years. His place has been supplied by the choice of Benjamin Adams.

The years 1808 and 1809 were seasons of special revival in the church, and additions were received.— From this time to 1821 was for the greatest part a season of trial and discouragement, and at different periods the church suffered considerable diminution both from the disorderly walk of its members, and from difference of opinion in those who, it is to be hoped, remained steadfast in their profession; but there were occasional seasons of revival and some additions.

The year 1821 was a season of more special revival, and the prospects of the church seemed to brighten, and additions were made. Elder Pratt having removed, the church was supplied with occasional preaching from this time till 1834 by Elders S. and E. Hutchings, H. Chandler, S. Curtis, S. Hathern, and many others; Elder Johnson still remaining and taking the more particular oversight of the church.

In 1834 a union protracted meeting, was held commencing on the 22nd of August, which resulted in a very extensive revival, when very considerable additions were made to the several churches. On the 22nd of September an invitation was extended to Elder John Chany to preach with them one half of the time and to take the oversight of the church, (a previous understanding having been had with Elder Johnson,) which invitation was accepted. During this season large ac-

cessions were made to the church at the center of the town, where, as well as in the lower part of the town, the church had for some time been increasing in numbers. For some years the Sabbath appointments and conferences had been divided and held alternately at the center and the upper parts of the town, but from this time the meetings were held, altogether, on the Sabbath, at the Center-Village, mostly at the brick school-house.

In the following year, 1835, the society built the meeting-house now occupied by them, and Elder Chaney soon after confined his labors wholly to this church, with which he remained till June, 1840, when, at his request, he was dismissed, and Elder Dexter Waterman took his place, but preached to the church but half the time, the remaining half being taken up in Phillips. This arrangement continued till the spring of 1843, when, at his request, he was dismissed, and was succeeded by George W. Bean, who devoted his entire labor to this church, from that time till July, 1845. He was ordained on the 14th of June, 1843. He was succeeded by Isaac Libby, the present occupant, who, commenced his labors in May, 1846.

Since 1834 the church has enjoyed several seasons of revival, and received additions, especially in the spring of 1843, which commenced in the upper part of the town; under the improvement of Rev. Jabez Talbot Gay, which soon after extended to the center of the town, and resulted in an extensive revival in which all the churches shared, and in which considerable additions were made to this church.

The church has suffered considerably, both from removals and in the death of some of its most efficient

members. It now numbers 79, but some 25 of that number reside out of town, and are so situated as not to enjoy the privilege of associating with the church, but have not found it convenient, or have not been disposed to unite with other churches. The whole number received has been something over 225.

About the year 1813 a small church was gathered in the south-west part of the town, known as the Second Freewill-Baptist Church in Farmington, which continued for a few years, and was then disbanded, a part of the members being embodied in the Christian Church, in that vicinity, and others uniting with such Freewill-Baptist churches as afforded local accommodations.

Another church has since been established at Farmington-Falls, but as it is mostly made up of members in Chesterville, we shall forbear giving a particular description of its proceedings. David Morrill a licensed preacher, was one of the most active members from its commencement to his death, which took place December 28, 1842. This church was small at the time of its organization, and remained so for some time. They were favored with a special revival in 1841 and 1842, in which Elder Timothy Johnson took a conspicuous part, and where he removed his church relation, and where he has continued his labors the most of the time since. This church now number 28, and is now nearly destitute of preaching.

## CHAPTER XXI.

## METHODISTS.

At the New-England Conference held at Lym, Mass., in September, 1793, Jesse Lee, who had been the pioneer of Methodism in New-England, was appointed to travel in the then Province of Maine the ensuing year, and to form a circuit where he might think best. He preached his first sermon at Saco, September 10th, from Acts xiii: 41, 'Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which you shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you;' on the 13th of October following, at Hallowell; and on the 15th at the house of Moses Starling, Esq., in this town, from Heb. iv: 1, Let us therefore fear, &c. From thence he proceeded to visit nearly all the towns then settled from the Androscoggin to the Penobscot River. He formed a circuit extending from Hallowell and Monmouth to Sandy River, and on his return to the conference in 1794, Philip Wager and Thomas Coop were appointed to take charge of the same. The first society formed in the Province of Maine was at Monmouth, the first of November, 1794; the second in Readfield, and the third in Farmington, soon after. Something over a year prior to this time a revival had commenced on the west side of the river, and a Freewill Baptist church was formed. The reformation was becoming general, in every section of the country, and the new order of people seemed well prepared to assist in carrying forward the good begun work. A class was first formed on the west side of the River in the



neighborhood of Mr. Gay, consisting of Jotham Smith and wife, Micah Wethern and wife, William Gay, John Austin and wife, and some others. Jotham Smith was appointed leader, and immediately after another class was formed on the east side of the river, in the neighborhood of Elvaton Parker, who, with his wife and most of his family, became members, together with Mary and Polly Brown, Eleazer Pratt of New-Vineyard, and Jacob Chandler, Nabby Pease, Zilpha Green, Sally Gay, Patience Butler, and some others. Here a Sabbath appointment was established and continued for some years, at first at the dwelling house of Mr. Brown, and afterwards at that of Mr. Parker. William Gay was appointed leader of this class. It continued for some few years, when it became reduced by the death of some and the removal of others, when the class was dissolved and the remaining members united with that on the west side of the river, which has ever continued its operations, and perhaps has been one of the most substantial and efficient in town.

The class at Farmington-Falls was formed in 1793. Stephen Titcomb, Jonathan Knowlton, with many members of their families, John and Sarah Gower, Nathaniel Whittier, Desire Stinchfield, Ruth Whittier, and Jesse Ingham were among the first gathered in this place.

At the conference in 1795, Enoch Mudge and Elias Hull were stationed on this circuit, which comprised four Sabbath appointments, viz. Monmouth, Readfield, Farmington, and Livermore, together with weekly appointments in most of the towns from Monmouth to the upper settlements on Sandy-River.

During this time a very efficient class had been formed in Strong, consisting of William Reed, Eliab Eaton,

Edward Flint, Richard Clark, and their wives, and many others; and another at Avon, among the members of which were Joshua Soule, Moses Dudley, Ebenezer Thompson, with many of their families and others. From this class were soon raised up three acceptable preachers, viz: Joshua Soule Jr., Samuel Thompson, and Daniel Dudley, the former of whom is now one of the acting bishops of the Episcopal Methodist Church, resident in Ohio.

This era of the Methodist societies in Maine, forms a very striking contrast with the present. They not only had to contend with embarrassments incident to the formation of societies on new ground, but much of the country was little more than an unbroken wilderness. They traveled at all seasons on horse-back, and not unfrequently by spotted lines, experiencing all the embarrassments incident to new settlements, which seemed only to nerve them up to more zealous exertion for the conversion of souls and the building up of the church.

The first Quarterly-Meeting in the state was held at Monmouth, on the 23d of June, 1795, and the first on the Sandy-River in December following. Jesse Lee was presiding elder, who continued in that station for some time, when he was succeeded by Joshua Taylor. Mr. Lee visited Maine in 1800, and, for the last time in 1808. He preached his last discourse in this section at Farmington-Falls, from Isaiah 33; 13.—“Hear ye that are far off what I have done: and ye that are near, acknowledge my might;”—when, after a rehearsal of the goodness of God in the conversion of souls, and the building up and spread of the societies, witnessed by himself, he powerfully enforced the exhortation of Joshua to the Children of Israel, “Now there-

fore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and truth."

He was born in Prince-George County, Virginia; entered the traveling connection in 1782, and first visited New-England in 1789. At the conference at New-York in 1790 he was ordained deacon, and then elder, and appointed to travel in New-England. In 1791 he was appointed presiding elder over the first New-England District. He died at Hillsborough, on Annapolis Circuit, Dec. 12, 1816. He was a man well qualified to fill the station he occupied, that of an itinerant preacher, possessing an affable disposition, though a plain and pungent preacher, and was well calculated to disarm opposition in all its forms.

The first Methodist meeting-house in this state was built in Readfield, and dedicated by Mr. Lee, on the 21st of June, 1795, and where the first conference was held, Aug. 29, 1798, of which Francis Asbury was presiding bishop.

The society at Farmington-Falls proceeded to build a meeting-house about 1800, (being the first in town,) where Sabbath appointments were established and continued with success for some time, but, owing to various causes, the house was suffered to go to decay, and the class became much reduced.

In 1820 a class was formed on Porter's-Hill. Osgood Eaton, Job Brooks, William Russell, with their wives and many of their families were among the number.

In 1831 the Brick Meeting-house on the west side of the river, was built, mostly by the Methodist society, where they now have preaching half the time.

Near this time a class was formed at the Center-Village, one in the eastern part of the town, one in the Holly-Neighborhood, and one at Backus'-Corner.

This town and Vienna now form a circuit, furnishing preaching alternately on the Sabbath, once in two weeks at the Brick-Meeting-house, once in four weeks at Farmington-Falls, and at Vienna, and various lectures through the week in the more remote sections of the towns.

There are now six classes in town, viz. at Farmington-Falls, the Center-Village, Mosher-Neighborhood,—Holly class,—at Backus'-Corner, the West side of the river, and Porter's-Hill, numbering, (after the formation of the Protestant and Wesleyan societies in 1843,) 114, about 80 of which were members of the church, the remainder being members of classes on trial.

Several preachers have been raised up, viz. Benjamin F. Sprague, John Allen, Jabez Talbot Gay, who were successful preachers in the traveling connection, and John Gower, Joseph Russell, Jeremiah Butler, John Norton, and Moses Brown, who have acted in a local capacity.

In the society's progress very many have been the changes as to the formation and alteration of classes, and circuits, and districts, but the traveling connection has always furnished preaching to a greater or less extent. The societies have been occasionally favored with special revivals, among which may be noticed those of 1794 and 5, 1808 and 9, 1821, 1834, and 1843, and many others of less note.

In looking back on the past we readily see that most of those who filled places of usefulness both in the ministry and membership, in the former part of that period of which we have been speaking, are gone the way of all the earth and their places are now filled by others; while many that remain have shifted their fields of labor and usefulness, and their stations are



supplied by new gifts. Among those who have labored successively for the edification of these societies, not already noticed, may be named a. Stebbins, Broadhead, Kibby, Heath, Stone, S. Hull, Williston, Searl, Hall, Bates, and many others, among whom ought not to be omitted the name of Eleazer Wells, who traveled in this district for a number of years. It may be said of him as of Stephen, he was a "man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost."

When attending a quarterly-meeting in Strong, on the 13th of July, 1823, it being a time of unusual drouth, and it seeming to all human appearance that sustenance for man and beast must fail unless prevented by an interposition of divine Providence,—Mr. Wells was led to exercise unusual faith in prayer for assistance in that time of distress from that God who is wont to hear and answer the prayers of those who humbly and devoutly implore his assistance; at the close of which he recommended the observance of the 17th of that month as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, on account of the drouth, which was religiously observed by many of the societies, and at the close of which day a most refreshing rain commenced, and which resulted in again reviving the hopes of the husbandman, and enabled the earth to produce a plentiful harvest.

## CHAPTER XXII.

## BAPTISTS.

THE first preacher of the Baptist denomination known to have visited the Sandy-River Valley was Rev. Eliphalet Smith, from Massachusetts, then an itinerant preacher, and engaged in a revival in what was then called Starling, now Fayette, and who penetrated the then thinly settled region of country as far as this place, and attended some appointments at the house of Moses Starling, as early as 1792. A church was that year embodied at Fayette, being the fruits of the revival alluded to. Mr. Smith was constituted its pastor.

In the course of the winter following, Oliver Billings, (since known as Elder Billings,) who had been a subject of the revival, and who had united with the newly constituted church in Fayette,—made a visit to this town.

His testimony to the truths of the gospel carried conviction to the hearts of several in the place, which was the commencement of one of the most extensive revivals ever known in this section of the country. It continued to progress through 1793, 1794, and 1795.

Most of the early converts in this revival were baptized and gathered into a church by Elder Lock, soon after, and united with the Freewill-Baptists. Some, however, embraced Baptist sentiments and occasionally Baptist preaching was had in the town, by Elders Smith, Case, Billings and some others; but no church was formed till 1797, when a small church was gathered by Elders Case and Smith, and which consisted of seven members.

Among the first members were, Church Brainard, Abigail Brainard, Eliphalet Bailey, Joseph Fairbanks, and Abel Sweet, of Farmington, and William Bradbury of Chesterville. Church Brainard was chosen deacon.

The church was furnished with but little preaching and had but small accessions for some time, so that in 1807 it consisted of nine members only.

About 1809 the place was again favored with a pretty extensive revival and an addition was made to the church of some 13 members.

In 1810, in consequence of some internal difficulties in the church, it was dissolved, and a new church was constituted, (July 20, 1810,) by the assistance of a council called from the churches in Fayette and Jay, and which consisted of Elder Oliver Billings, and five others.

The church then contained 8 male and 14 female members. Benjamin Brainard was chosen clerk, and Isaac Thomas deacon. Several others united with it soon after, among whom was Eliphalet Bailey, who was appointed deacon.

From its first organization to 1821, a period of about 24 years, it received only occasional preaching by Messrs. Case, Smith, Billings, Briggs, Low, Boardman, and some others. In 1816 the church was favored with the labors of Elder Billings, to a considerable extent, which were greatly blessed to the edification of its members, and to the gathering in of a number who had not before made a public profession of their faith in Christ.

In 1821, Rev. Winthrop Morse, from Massachusetts, became pastor. The church had then 52 members, but in three years it was again left destitute of a pastor by the resignation of Mr. Morse.

Their next Minister was Rev. Hezekiah Hull from No-

va-Scotia, who labored with the church, acceptably, in 1828 and 1829, and some additions were made.

In 1834 a number were added as the fruit of a union protracted meeting, held in August of that year. Rev. Nathan Mayhew preached the former part of the year, and Rev. William Wyman the latter part of that year and a part of the succeeding year, one half the time, to the advantage of the church.

Till this time the church had been destitute of a suitable house for public worship; their meetings having been held, at first in barns and dwelling-houses, and subsequently in school-houses in different neighborhoods, and a part of the time in what is now the Court-House, which was for many years the only meeting-house in the center of the town, and which was owned by six or seven different societies.

In 1835 they erected a house for worship, which was completed the following season, and, the expense of which was a source of some embarrassment to the church, but from which they have nearly recovered.

The church, however, continued to sustain preaching, statedly, one half or three fourths of the time, generally, until the settlement of Rev. Amaziah Joy as their pastor. He was ordained Dec. 5, 1833, and continued his labors with the church, until Feb. 8, 1840, when he was dismissed. His place was supplied by Rev. Levi B. Hathaway, whose ordination took place on the 30th of June, 1841. They were soon left destitute again, as Mr. Hathaway closed his pastoral labors with them on the 30th of May, 1842.

In September following the church gave Rev N. M. Williams a call to become their pastor for five years, which was accepted by him. Application was made to the Missionary Society for assistance in his support,



which was afforded, to some extent, for one year. The church continued to make provision for his support, from year to year, by subscription, that being their usual method.

In April following, a union protracted meeting was held in the place, in which the church took a part. A general revival ensued, and considerable additions were made to its numbers, as fruits of the revival, in the course of the season. Occasional additions have since been made by letter, and the church now numbers about ninety.

Mr. Williams continued his labors with the church till the 3rd of May, 1846, being a period of nearly four years, when he presented a letter of resignation, which was accepted, and the church is now destitute of a pastor.

Cyrus Case, who united with the church in 1835, was licensed to preach in 1840, and ordained as pastor of the first Baptist Church in Monmouth, in October, 1842.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

## UNIVERSALISTS.

The first preacher of the Universalist denomination, who visited this town, is thought to be the Rev. Mr. Barns, and after him a Mr. Smith, and perhaps some others. In 1811 they obtained an act of incorporation from the General-Court of Massachusetts, by which they were denominated the "First Universalist Society in Farmington."

This was the first incorporated society in town, and it consisted of fifty members, who principally resided in the lower part of the town. They were organized, September 2, 1811, by making choice of Jeremiah Stinchfield for clerk, Benjamin Weather, Reuben Lowell, and Jeremy Wyman for assessors, William Gould for treasurer, and Reuben Lowell Jr. for collector. At the same meeting, Thomas Gorden, Reuben Lowell, and Horatio G. Quincy were appointed delegates to represent the society in the General-Convention to be held at Freeport, on the 2nd Wednesday of that month.

They took immediate measures to raise funds by an assessment of \$100 on the polls and estates of the society, for the support of preaching. The Rev. Mr. Root, appears to have been employed for one third of the time. In 1812 the General-Convention was held at Farmington for the first time.

From that time to 1824 preaching was furnished a part of the time only, as contracts were made from time to time, but at this time William A. Drew united with them and soon after commenced preaching, and

being a young man of talent, he soon became an able speaker. He however soon removed, and has since confined his labors mostly to the county of Kennebec, where he has acted a prominent part, both as a preacher, and as editor of a paper devoted to the interests of the denomination, and other useful objects.

Soon after this period the Rev. Zenas Thompson settled with this society, and continued his labors for some time. The society, up to this time, had received additional members to the amount of 38, making 88 in the whole, which number had been diminished by deaths, removals and dismissions to about 70.

In 1829, the state of the society having become somewhat unpromising, it was thought best to organize a new society, as the First Universalist Society in Farmington and Vicinity, which was done under the then existing law, by a warrant from a justice of the peace, on the petition of William Gould and 16 other individuals, desirous thus to be embodied, who met at the school-house near Reuben Butterfield's, on the 29th day of June 1829. Gen. William Gould was chosen moderator, and Zenas Thompson clerk. The meeting was then adjourned to the first Wednesday in September, at which meeting ten additional members were received, and the following officers were chosen, viz: John Russ, James Butterfield, and Lemuel Bursley, assessors; Nathaniel Whittier, collector; Moses Butterfield, treasurer; and Leonard Billings, Ira Morse, and William Gould, standing-committee.

The society voted that the annual meetings should be held in March, or April, and also to raise the sum of \$100 for the support of preaching, for the year.

Mr. Thompson's labors were continued with the society till April 27, 1833, when his pastoral relation

with the society was, by his request, dissolved. Since this time preaching on the Sabbath has been continued but a part of the time.

In 1832 the society received in securities from the first parish in the town, the amount of \$636 17, being the proceeds of the funds arising from the lands appropriated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for the use of the ministry, and for the first settled minister, an arrangement having been made by which the funds were divided equally between the six different religious societies in town.

The organization of this society has been regularly kept up, and the expenses have been borne by regular assessments, from the interest of the fund, and by voluntary contributions or subscription.



## CHAPTER XXIV.

## CONGREGATIONALISTS.

The first preaching in Farmington was by this denomination. Rev. Mr. Emerson, of Georgetown, in this state, who visited the place some time previous to 1788, preached the first sermon in Mr. Titcomb's log house, and baptized his child, being the first born, and the first baptized in this town.

In 1790 the place was visited by the Rev. Mr. Little, then pastor of a church in Kennebunk, who was employed by the Massachusetts Missionary Society, as a missionary. For several years succeeding, the Rev. Jotham Sewall of Chesterville, and the Rev. Samuel Sewall then of the south-westerly part of this town, supplied those who preferred Congregational preaching, either by the aid of the society or by the voluntary contributions of the people. In the early part of the present century, the Rev. Jonathan Burr, who afterwards settled at Sandwich, Mass., supplied the people for one season, if not longer.

In the year 1804 Rev. Mr. Gould preached with them, as a missionary from Massachusetts.

In 1805 Rev. Mr. Marcy labored here as a missionary from the Massachusetts Missionary Society.

From 1806 to 1812 Rev. Jotham Sewall furnished the principal supply, who was so well received, that upon his exchanging for a season with Rev. Mr. Cox, of New-Hampshire, Mr. Starling remarked, "We paid Mr. Sewall for WHEAT, and he has given us OATS."

A Congregational church was early organized in

Chesterville, with which those of that denomination in this town united, and remained until a church was formed here, in 1814.

In 1813 Rev. Fifield Holt, came here from Massachusetts, and from Andover Theological Seminary. He was a good man and deservedly popular. He afterwards also preached occasionally in the place, and exercised a kind of pastoral supervision of the interests of the denomination until the settlement of their present pastor.

In 1814 Mr. Hezekiah Hall preached in this place and vicinity. He was a man of ready talent, and very fluent and copious in his words, and logical in his discourses, but he had many eccentricities, and so many and glaring faults, that although he was subsequently settled over the church in New-Sharon, he remained there but nine months.

In the years 1816, 1817, 1819, 1823, 1824, and 1825 the Rev. John H. Ingraham, Rev. Thomas Adams, Rev. Elijah Jones, Rev. Seneca White, Rev. Geo. W. Campbell, and Rev. Daniel D. Tappan labored here as missionaries for considerable periods of time, and others who came then and previously labored for shorter periods.

To three of these—Rev. Messrs. Adams, White, and Campbell, either overtures for settlement were extended or movements to that effect were made, but were not successful.

The immediate predecessor of the present pastor, in missionary labors, was Rev. Fifield Holt, of Bloomfield, in this state. He closed his services in the fall of 1825, and died a few years after at the age of 48.

Rev. Isaac Rogers, the present pastor came here in November, 1825, and was ordained as the pastor of the

First Congregational Church, on the 9th of March, 1826.

At this time the only house for religious worship at the Center was what is now the Court-House. That was then owned, and liable to be occupied by six or seven denominations. For five years Mr. Rogers preached in town, three fourths of the time—and the other fourth at Wilton, and in the vicinity. Yet the old meeting-house, being owned with others, could not always be occupied by him, even that part of the time. Hence they occupied school-houses and dwelling-houses, in different parts of the town, and they not unfrequently held interesting and profitable meetings in the hall of the Academy, which is now denominated the Chapel. In 1831-2 a new building having been erected by Deacon Nathaniel Green, for the purpose of a high-school, this, through his generosity, afforded quite a passable and convenient place of worship, for several years,—in connection with the old meeting-house, which they occupied half the time, being something less than the amount owned by the society entitled them to. The building erected by Deacon Green is that recently occupied by S. G. Ladd, Esq. as a hard-ware store.

In 1837 the neat and convenient house of worship which they now occupy, was dedicated to the service of Almighty God. Since that time their meetings have been stated and regular, and exceedingly well attended.

This church was organized December 14, 1814. It then consisted of twelve members, viz: Thomas Wendell, Abraham Smith, Luther Townsend, Ebenezer B. Wellman, Harrison Allen, Mehetable Titcomb, Prudence Minot, Dorothy Townsend, Mary Bailey, Mary Case, Hannah C. Beale, and Susanna Richardson. The deacons have been Abraham Smith, chosen 1814; Hebron

Mayhew, chosen 1815, died Dec. 1826; Nathaniel Green, chosen 1828, dismissed 1845; Thomas Hunter, chosen 1836. Thomas Wendell, the present clerk, was chosen in Jan. 1818,

The church had increased, at the time of the present pastor's ordination, to not far from '50 who had been admitted, but by deaths and dismissions this number was diminished to 40.

Some small additions were made to the church in the years 1826 and 1827, but its greatest times of enlargement have been in connection with three seasons of deep and general religious interest, with which it has pleased God to favor the place, since that period. These were in the years 1828, 1834, 1842, and 1843, and at these several periods, not far from 120 were added to their numbers by profession and letter, and upwards of 30 have been added since.

There have been connected with this church, since its organization, not far from 207 members. Of these upwards of 157 have been added under the present pastor. Of the whole number 38 have died; 42 have been dismissed to other churches, and 4 have been excommunicated. The present number is 122. Not far from 20 of these, however, reside in other places, while not far from 10 members of Congregational churches in other places, reside in town, and attend on Mr. Rogers' ministry.



## CHAPTER XXV.

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

ON the 22nd of December, 1822, a number of professed Christians, in the south-west part of the town, of different societies, but principally Freewill-Baptists, met and formed an association for their mutual edification as Christians, to promote their spirituality, and to adopt measures to extend the cause of the Redeemer on the earth—but without an intention of forming a distinct or separate church—but from having been impressed with the necessity of all the followers of Christ being knit together, in the spirit of love, as far as their locality would permit, without reference to differences of opinion in things which they did not consider essential to their fellowship as Christians.

They proceeded to establish monthly or conference meetings, which were constantly attended from 1822 to 1832, with a few exceptions. They entered into an agreement that they would watch over each other, not for their hauling, but for their furtherance in the divine life—that they would take the scriptures for their rule of faith and practice, inviting all of every name and denomination, who sincerely love God and wish for the promotion of Prince Immanuel, to unite with them for the purposes referred to. It was further agreed that all such as might unite with them, should have the privilege of retaining their standing in whatever church they might be attached to, and to help, or receive help, from any Christian church or society, but were required to attend, as far as consistent, all church or conference meetings appointed by the society.

They continued to have accessions to their numbers from different denominations, and some who had not attached themselves to any church, who signed the preceeding agreement, so that their numbers increased to some 60 or 70.

During this period preachers of various denominations occasionally held meetings in the neighborhood where their conferences were held, but mostly of the Christian connection.

On exchange of views with preachers of the last named denomination, it was found that their views and practices agreed with the views of most of the society, and thinking that it might be for their furtherance in the gospel, they appointed delegates to the Christian Kennebec Conference, held at Monmouth, on the 13th of October, 1832, who bore a request for their admission to fellowship, with that body, upon which they were received.

On the 30th of April 1835, Elder Peter Young, formerly from York in this state, united with this church, and became their pastor, and was much esteemed. His labors were blessed to the edification of the church, and considerable additions were made during his ministry, which was continued most of the time till his death, being about three years.

On the 30th of April, 1835, a number were dismissed for the purpose of forming another church in Jay, who, with others, were soon after embodied in a church of the same order.

Mr. Young died at his residence in Chesterville, May 24, 1838, when the church was left destitute of a pastor.

October 13, 1838, Elder Jonathan Bradley of Vienna, was received into the church, and assumed the

pastoral charge, and preached with the church occasionally. He died October 21, 1839.

The church remained destitute of a pastor till March 23rd, 1841, when Elder Daniel Rogers, from New-Hampshire, united with the church, took the oversight, and preached with them the principal part of the time.

Under his labors there was some revival, and additions were made to the church. He continued his labors about three years, and then returned to New-Hampshire. He was a man who possessed the confidence and esteem of the church, and of most of those who knew him.

Some two or three years since, some 15 withdrew on account of some difference of opinion, and, a number having moved away, and some having died, the church is now reduced to about 30 members, whose local situation is rather scattering.

Since Mr. Rogers left, Elder Henry Frost has preached occasionally with the church. They are at present destitute of stated meetings for religious worship. John F. Woods is the only one who now remains of the original members.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

## UNITARIANS.

THE first Unitarian Society in Farmington was organized, Feb. 27, 1830, on the petition of the following individuals, who constituted the original members, viz: Nathan Cutler, Asa Abbot Jr., Henry Titcomb, Joseph Johnson, Isaac Tyler, Argalis Pease, Robert W. Tobey, Henry Stewart, John A. Stoyell, William H. Johnson, E. Gilman Rosson, and Thomas Williams.—William H. Johnson was chosen clerk, and Isaac Tyler treasurer, and Henry Titcomb, Argalis Pease, and Henry Stewart a standing committee for the year.—Asa Abbot Jr. was appointed agent to receive the society's poroportion of the ministerial fund. Nathan Cutler was chosen treasurer in 1831, and A. H. Stewart clerk in 1833, which offices they have filled to the present time.

They soon after received considerable accession of numbers, and they proceeded by an arrangement with the Trustees of the Academy, to fit up the upper story of the academy building, for the accommodation of meetings for worship, and which answered conveniently for the purpose, and which has since been known as "The Chapel."

In 1836 the Rev. Thomas Beede, Abigail Beede, Hannah R. Beede, Elizabeth Moore, Deborah Belcher, Ann B. Titcomb, Caroline W. Belcher, and Josiah Prescott were received as members of the society.

Mr. Beede was employed to preach with them, and continued for some time. He was supported by subscription and the interest arising from the share of the ministerial fund received from the town.



Since Mr. Beede left they have not had stated preaching. Small appropriations have been made from the interest arising from the funds, for the purchase of tracts and books for gratuitous distribution—otherwise the interest has been added to the principal, which has considerably increased.

The whole number of members received into the society appears to be 36. From deaths, removals, and other causes, the number has been somewhat reduced. It now numbers 23.

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## CHAPTER XXVII.

### PROTESTANT METHODISTS.

A Protestant Methodist Society was formed in the upper part of the town, Jan. 17, 1843, by Benjamin Dodge, who had formerly been an ordained local preacher in the Episcopal Methodist Church, but who had subsequently united with the Protestant Methodists in Massachusetts, in the same capacity. The first organization embraced five persons, viz: Benjamin Dodge, Richard H. Dorr, Nathan Davis, Moses Brown, and Stephen Williams. Jabez T. Gay, and Marchant Holly united immediately after.

A religious revival soon after commenced, in the neighborhood, which extended to the Center-Village, and into many other sections of the town.

About 70 were received into the society, which was divided into several classes, most of which remain, and which contain, at the present time, about 35 members. They have at the present time, four ordained preach-

ers, viz: Benjamin Dodge, Richard H. Dorr, Nathan Davis, and Marchant Holly.

Jabez Talbot Gay united with this society immediately after its formation, and acted a very conspicuous part in the reformation to which we have already referred. He was a man of undoubted Christian character, though possessed of some eccentricities. He possessed an acceptable gift, and was unusually devoted to the work of preaching the gospel, to which calling he devoted himself without reserve. The interest which he felt in the salvation of his fellow men, and his incessant labors in the ministry, no doubt, served to hasten his early death. He died in February, 1845, aged 35.

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## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### WESLEYAN METHODISTS.

IN March, 1843, a Wesleyan Methodist society was formed on the west side of the river, consisting of Moses Lufkin of Strong, Joseph Russell, Peter R. Tufts, and wife, Ira Sprague and wife, Daniel Stanley, and wife, Matthias S. Norcross, and wife, Andrew Tuck, and Daniel York, of this town—twelve in all.

Peter R. Tufts was appointed leader, and, at the ensuing conference, Benjamin Bullock was stationed with the society half the time, where he continued for the two years following, and occasionally since, occupying the Brick-Meeting-house alternately with the Episcopal Methodists. Messrs. Russell, Lufkin, and E. Pope have occasionally supplied, the latter part of

the time. Some additions have since been made, and the society now numbers about 20.

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## CHAPTER XXIX.

### SKETCHES OF NEIGHBORING TOWNS.

#### NEW-SHARON.

MR PRINCE BAKER was the first settler in the town of New-Sharon.—He was a native of Pembroke, Mass., from which place he removed to Readfield in this state, at an early day, and from there to what is now New-Sharon in 1782.

Nathaniel Tibbits, Benjamin Chambers, Benjamin Rollins, James Howes, and Samuel Prescott 1st, were among some of the first settlers in that town. The township was afterwards purchased of the state, by Prince Baker and others, Feb. 14, 1791. It contains 28,600 acres.

The mills at the Falls were first built by Abel Baker, in 1801. They afterwards passed into the hands of Francis Mayhew, and were rebuilt by him and much improved. The bridge was built about 1809 or 1810, and has since been rebuilt with permanent stone abutments, and well covered. The water privilege at the village is a superior one, and the location possesses many advantages for a business place. It has, in addition to the grist-mill, a saw-mill, shingle-machine, starch-factory, one or more tanneries, fulling-mill, carding-machine, a number of blacksmith-shops, and most kinds of mechanics, a number of stores, 2 lawyer's of-

fices, four meeting-houses—Baptist, Methodist, Congregationalist, and Universalist. The Freewill-Baptists have one in the south part of the town, and there is a free meeting-house at Weeks'-Mills, in the north-west part of the town, where there is a set of mills, a starch-factory, and a considerable village.

The town was incorporated, June 20, 1794. In 1840 it contained 1820 inhabitants—319 polls—valuation \$286,890 as corrected by the legislature.

The town possesses a variety of excellent soil and has an advantage in location over most of the towns in the county as to access to market and water communication.

A large and convenient meeting-house built by the different religious societies, about 1816, on the site now occupied by the Congregational meeting-house, was burned in April, 1842.

#### JAY.

Jay, which takes its name from Hon. John Jay, was incorporated February 26, 1795. It was formerly known as Phips' Canada, and was granted to Capt. Josiah Phips and 63 others, for services in the French war of 1755. It was a large township, situated on both sides of the Androscoggin, and embracing 27,200 acres, about one third of which, lying on the west side of the river, was incorporated into a town by the name of Canton, in 1821.

By the grant it was to be divided into rights of 400 acres each, one to be reserved for Harvard College, one for the first settled minister, one for the use of the ministry, and one for the use of schools. It was early surveyed and divided into lots of 100 acres each, a



settling committee was appointed by the associates, who subsequently purchased the whole, and so managed the business that the original owners received little or no benefit from the grant.

Actual settlements were not commenced till after the Revolutionary-War. Simon Coolidge, Dea. Oliver Fuller, Samuel Eustis, Scarborough Parker, Moses Crafts, Isaac West, Thomas Fuller, Joseph Hyde, Nathaniel Jackson, Samuel Jackson, William Godding, and James Adkinson, were some of the first settlers in the town.

There is something of a village on what is called Jay-Hill, where James Starr Esq., now a resident of the place, settled as early as 1802. Here are two stores, a tavern, meeting-house, &c.

Near Jay-Hill is a toll-bridge across the Androscoggin, a first-rate grist-mill, which was put in operation in 1846, and a saw-mill. There is also a meeting-house in the northerly part of the town, and one in the more easterly part. This town has derived little benefit from water power or floating capital, but was settled by, and possessess a population of industrious, independent yeomanry. There is also a small village known as Bean's-Corner, in the north-east section of the town, where a number of the sons of the late Friend Bean, of Readfield, settled at an early day.

At first the people of this town had only occasional preaching from traveling preachers. A Baptist church was formed in 1799, which became a large and flourishing church. Joseph Adams, one of its members, became its first pastor in 1804, where he continued his labors some 14 years with success. He was followed by Rev. E. Nelson, in 1821, who continued 3 years. In 1824 they had 153 members. In 1826 they became

divided in opinion, and nearly one third were excluded, who formed a separate church. Since this time they have been supplied by various preachers, as employed from time to time. Some six Baptist ministers have been raised up from this church. There is also a considerable Methodist society, who have stated preaching; and two small Freewill-Baptist churches. In 1840 the town had 1750 inhabitants, and 290 polls. The valuation, in 1842, as corrected by the legislature, was \$239,077.

#### STRONG.

THE first settlement in the town of Strong, (formerly Middletown,) was made as early as 1784, by William Reed, from Nobleborough, in this state; who was followed by Edward Flint, John Day, David and Joseph Humphrey, Jacob Sawyer, William Hiscock, Benjamin Dodge, Timothy Merry, Eliab Eaton, Peter Patterson, and Robert McLeery and — Ellsworth, all from the same place, or vicinity. This town is situated directly north of Farmington, on the Sandy-River. The first framed barn was put up by Mr. Read, in 1786-7, and his house, (the first framed house,) in 1791-2. The inhabitants of this town, as well as those located higher up the river, frequently had to go to Winthrop to mill, and to use mortars, for some years.

Richard Clark, and Joseph Kersey settled in the town, about 1792. The township was purchased of the state by an association of individuals, of whom William Read was one, and who acted as their agent in the purchase and survey of the town. The state reserved one lot for Pierpole, on which he had settled, after leaving Farmington-Falls. He put up the second fram-

ed house in the town, where he remained till 1801, when he left and went to Canada with his family.— This town embraces a territory of seven miles from north to south, and five from east to west. The soil is strong and fertile, though the surface is somewhat uneven. It has a considerably large pond in the eastern extremity, at the outlet of which is a saw-mill and a clover-mill, built and owned by Alexander Porter.— There is a grist-mill on the Sandy-River, and on the North-East-Branch of the Sandy-River a grist-mill, saw-mill, fulling-mill, carding-machine, starch-factory, tannery, and various kinds of mechanic shops, and a very pretty village, containing a number of stores, a post office, lawyer's-office, meeting-house, and two taverns. Just below the village there is a bridge across the Sandy-River. There is also a meeting-house at the lower part of the town, and one in the easterly section, all of which were mostly built, and are chiefly occupied by the Episcopal Methodists. There is a meeting-house in the north-east part of the town which was built by the Congregationalists, and which they occupy. William Read was early commissioned a justice-of-the-peace, and held many important offices till near the close of life. He was a man of more than ordinary talent and possessed the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. His house was ever the home of the traveler, and his hands were ever open to the wants of the needy. His house was burned in April, 1823, which was the cause of his instant death. The town was incorporated Jan. 31, 1801, taking the name of Strong from the circumstance of the act of incorporation being the first act of the kind which bore the signature of Caleb Strong, who was for many years governor of Massachusetts. In 1840 it contained 1109

inhabitants, and 155 polls. Its valuation as corrected by the legislature of 1842, is \$158,989.

#### CHESTERVILLE.

The first settlement in Chesterville was made by Abraham Wyman in 1782. Dunimer Sewall 2d, and Samuel Linscot commenced in 1783, near the Lower-Mills. Rev. Jotham Sewall, Elder Edward Lock, and others, moved into the town soon after. The mills at that place were first built in 1785. There is now a considerable village at the place. The saw-mills have afforded more pine lumber than any others in this section of country, a considerable part of the territory having been partially covered with a growth of pine. At these mills there are a meeting house, starch-factory, one or more stores, and mechanics of various trades. There is also a saw-mill at the southerly part of the town, and one at Farmington-Falls; a grist-mill, fulling-mill, and carding-machine at Keith's-Mills. Shingle-machines are attached to nearly all the saw-mills.

Chesterville is situated south of Farmington, and is watered by the Wilson-Stream, Little-Norridgewock, and a number of ponds. The territory does not conveniently accommodate public meetings, as the town is some ten or twelve miles in length, and the width narrow and irregular. It has several excellent ridges of land for farming, and the town produces some of the best neat-stock in the country. The population in 1840 was 1098, and the number of polls 197. The valuation in 1842 was 142,359 dollars. The town was incorporated February 20, 1802. The title was derived from the commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the township contains 19,000 acres.



## AVON.

The town of Avon, (formerly called Upper-Town,) lies still higher up the Sandy-River, and westerly of Strong; the Sandy-River passing through the town in a nearly south-east direction. Settlements commenced in this town about the same time as in Strong. Capt. Joshua Soule, from the Damariscotta-River, and Capt. Perkins Allen from Martha's-Vineyard, Mass., moved into town prior to 1784, who were followed by Moses Dudley, Ebenezer Thompson, Mark Whitten, Thomas Humphrey, Charles Dwelley, and Samuel and Jesse Ingham. The south and west parts of this town are somewhat uneven, and not wholly settled,—the south-west corner being near the summit of Mount-Blue.—There is a small village in the easterly part of the town, where there was formerly a bridge across the Sandy-River, which is a place of some trade. There are two saw-mills on a small stream on the west side of the river. Avon was incorporated Feb. 22, 1802; had 827 inhabitants in 1840, and 141 polls. Valuation in 1842, 79,730 dollars.

## NEW-VINEYARD.

The Town of New-Vineyard was purchased of the state, by an association of individuals, of Martha's-Vineyard, Mass, together with Jonathan Knowlton of Farmington, who acted as their agent. After the survey it was divided by lot among them. Nearly all the first settlers were from Martha's-Vineyard; hence it took the name of New-Vineyard from the commencement of its settlement, and was incorporated by that name, Feb. 22, 1802. Daniel Collins and Abner Norton commenc-

ed improvements and removed their families into town in the fall of 1791. They were the only families who wintered in the place the following winter. The first crops were raised in 1792. They were soon after followed by Samuel Daggett, Jonathan Merry, James Manter, Ephraim Butler, John Spencer, Cornelius Norton, David Davis, John Daggett, Benjamin Benson, Joseph Smith, Henry Butler, Herbert Boardman, Charles Luce, Henry Norton, William Farrand, Seth Hillman, Ezra Winslow, and Calvin Burden. Settlements north of the mountains were commenced soon after by people mostly from Middleboro', Mass., among whom were George Pratt, Eleazer Pratt, Paul Pratt, Elias Bryant, Simeon Hackett, Jabez Vaughan, Zephaniah Morton, and Beniah Pratt. That part called The Gore has since been set off to Industry, and besides which the town consisted of a territory six miles square. The south-easterly part, embracing about one fourth of the town, has more recently been set off, and now forms a part of Industry. The town has quite a range of mountains, extending nearly across the town from east to west, near the center, dividing the waters of the Sandy-River from those of the Seven-Mile-Brook. The soil is generally good, especially in the northerly and easterly sections. The principal stream is the outlet of Porter's-Pond, in Strong, which discharges into the Seven-Mile-Brook, and on which are a number of valuable mill-sites. A first-rate grist-mill, two saw-mills, a clover-mill, a shingle machine, and various other kinds of machinery; two meeting-houses, one store, a number of mechanic's shops and dwelling houses, form a considerable village, which has been known as Vaughan's-Mills. The mills are now owned by Messrs. Luce and Stewart. New-Vineyard is situated east of Strong

and north of Industry, and the place of business is about nine miles from the Court-House. It had a population of 927 in 1840. The valuation in 1842 amounted to 94,408 dollars. But the population and the valuation have both been reduced by the transfer of territory to Industry.

#### INDUSTRY.

This town was formed from a remnant of the north-west corner of the Plymouth-Patent or Kennebec-Purchase. It is situated easterly of Farmington, and is bounded on the west by that town and New-Sharon, north by New-Vineyard, (a part of which has been set off to Industry.) The first settlements in this town were made by James and John Thompson, Zoe Withe, Thomas Johuson, and William Allen, about 1793 or 1794. Benjamin Cottle, Daniel Luce, Peter Daggett, Jabez Norton, Peter West, James Winslow, John Gower, and Lemuel Howes were also. early settlers. The lands were first taken up as each individual chose to select, and held by possession, and afterwards purchased of those claiming proprietorship under the original purchase. The Bull-Horse or Clear-Water-Pond, situated in the north-west corner of the town, affords an excellent stream of water, on which are a first-rate grist-mill, saw-mill, tannery and starch-factory, which, with a store and a number of mechanic's-shops, form a place of considerable business, near the outlet of the pond. These mills were first built by Rufus Davis, and passed into the hands of James Gower, and from him to the present owners, Messrs. Benjamin and N. T. Allen. A set of mills was built in the north-east part of the town, by Peter West, at the time of the first settle-

ment of the place, where there is now a considerable village. They have a Meeting-house, (Methodist,) fulling-mill, carding-machine, a number of stores and shops, and the village is known as West's-Mills. There is also a union meeting-house, at the center of the town, and one in the Thompson-Neighborhood in the eastern part of the town, owned by the methodists. The town was incorporated June 20, 1803, had 1035 inhabitants in 1840, and 181 polls. The valuation in 1842 was 139,067 dollars. There are four churches in town, viz: Methodist, Baptist, Congregationalist and F. W. Baptist.

#### TEMPLE.

The town of Temple lies west of Farmington and north of Wilton, and was incorporated June 20, 1803. Temple and Wilton take their names from two towns in New-Hampshire, similarly situated, and from which many of the early settlers emigrated. Temple was formerly known as No. 1 of Abbot's-Purchase. The first settlements were commenced about 1796. Joseph Holland and Samuel Briggs, were the two first who moved into the place. They were soon followed by James Tuttle, Moses Adams, John Kenney, Jona. Ballard, William Drury, Asa Mitchell, Samuel Lawrence, Messrs. Farmer Tripp, Poor, and Gideon and George Staples. Mr. Tuttle, who settled at the center of the town, was soon succeeded by Benjamin Abbot Esq. who was one of the most useful and respected citizens in the place. He died 1823, aged 53. This town at the commencement of the settlement was owned by Benj. Phillips of Boston, but was surveyed and settled under the agency of Jacob Abbot Esq., late of Brunswick, in this state, who subsequently purchased the residue of Mr.



Phillips' eastern lands. This town is somewhat mountainous, embracing quite a portion of the Blue ridge, but is good for grazing, and is said to furnish the best of sheep. The town is watered principally by the Starling or Davis Mill-stream, on which there is a grist-mill and some two or three saw-mills, a starch-factory, and machine-shop. They have two meeting-houses, Congregational and Methodist. Stated meetings have been continued from near the first settlement, by these societies, and also by the Freewill-Baptists. There has been one or two stores kept at the mills for some years, where there is something of a village, and several mechanics. The inhabitants, in 1840, numbered 955,—polls, 149. The valuation in 1842 was \$90,504.

## WILTON.

The town of Wilton, (formerly called Tyngtown,) was granted to Capt. Tyng and a company under his command, by the state of Massachusetts, for destroying an Indian by the name of Harry. It was explored in 1785, by Solomon Adams and others, and located by Samuel Titcomb Esq., surveyor to the state, and lotted by Solomon Adams in 1687. Samuel Butterfield built the first mills in the town, about 1791. Isaac Brown was the first who moved into the town. Wm. Walker, Ammial Clough, Joseph Webster, Silas Gould, Ebenezer Eaton, Josiah Perham, Ebenezer Brown, Joshua Perley and Josiah Blake were some of the first settlers. This town lies west of and adjoining Farmington, has not only a productive soil but possesses a superior advantage in water power, the Wilson-Stream being one of the best in this section, running through the town from west to east. There are two considerable villages on the stream. What is called the Upper-Village has a superior grist-mill, two saw-mills, two starch-factories, a shingle-machine, fulling-mill, trip-hammer; various kinds of machinery, a tannery, two meeting-hous-

es, a brick school-house, two taverns, a number of stores, two law offices, with various mechanics. At the Lower-Village is a grist-mill and saw-mill, a woolen factory, one meeting-house, two public houses, a number of stores and various mechanic shops. There is also a grist mill and saw-mill at the north part of the town, at the outlet to Varnum's-Pond. The mills first built by Mr. Butterfield were where the Lower-Village now stands. He soon after erected the first at the outlet of the pond now known as the Upper-Village, where he successfully prosecuted business till his death, about 1814. He was succeeded by Charles Morse, who rebuilt the mills with considerable improvements, in 1840, when he introduced the first Burr-stones in this section, though some seven or eight sets have since been put in operation in the county. Col. Morse died in 1845. He was a useful and much esteemed citizen. Wilton was incorporated June 23, 1803—population in 1840, 2,198—number of Polls 401—valuation in 1842, \$295,163. There are three Freewill-Baptist churches, a congregational church, and several Methodist societies in the town.

#### FREEMAN.

Freeman, which joins Strong on the north, is the westerly of the two townships granted by the state of Massachusetts, to the sufferers of Falmouth, (now Portland,) in the burning of the town by the British in the revolutionary war. It was surveyed and settled under the agency of Reuben Hill, about 1797. Wm. Brackly, David Hooper, Alexander Fasset, Samuel Weymouth, and Messrs. Burbank, Morton and Boston, were some of the first settlers. It derives little advantage from water power, but it has a productive soil, though rather hard to cultivate. The northerly part of the town, or what is called Freeman-Ridge, is said to be the best for tillage. Near the center of the town there has been a store for some years, but the town has no con-

siderable village. It was incorporated March 4, 1808, and takes its name from Samuel Freeman, late of Portland, who was one of the principal owners at the time of the settlement. Population in 1840, 838—polls 142, Valuation in 1842, \$83,902. It was formerly six miles square, but a part of its original territory has been attached to Salem.

PHILLIPS.

Phillips, formerly called Curvo, (a name it received from Capt. Perkins Allen, on account of its resemblance to a port he had visited in a foreign voyage,) was incorporated Feb. 25, 1812. It received the name of Phillips in honor of Mr. Phillips, the former proprietor. It lies about seventeen miles, in a nearly north-west direction from the Court-House in Farmington. It formerly embraced a territory of about 9 miles in length and 5 in width; but in 1823 a section from the north-east corner was set off to form a part of Salem, and recently a strip 3 miles wide, from what was formerly Berlin, has been attached to the west side. Improvements commenced in this town as early as 1790 or 1791. Perkins Allen, Seth Greely and son, Jonathan Pratt, Uriah and Joseph Howard and Isaac Davenport were among the first settlers. Sales were first made under the agency of Francis Tufts, but the agency subsequently passed into the hands of Jacob Abbot Esq. who eventually became the owner of the unsold lands. There are two important villages, situated on the Sandy river, and near the southern extremity of the town. There is a noble waterfall at the Lower-Village, (the best on the Sandy-River,) where there is a superior grist-mill, originally built by Francis Tufts, and afterwards rebuilt by Joel Whitney, into whose hands it passed, and who sold it to the present owners, Orin and Daniel Robbins, by whom it has been enlarged and put in good repair. There are also at this village a

tannery, a fulling-mill and carding-machine, a union meeting-house, (the bell of which was presented by Joel Whitney Esq.,) a convenient school-house, some four or five stores, a public house, law-office, saddle and harness maker's shop, two blacksmith's shops, a cabinet maker's shop, &c. The Upper-Village is situated about half-a-mile above the Lower-Village. It has a number of stores, two law-offices, a post-office, a tannery, a public house, a number of mechanic shops, a school-house, and, just above, a meeting-house, (Methodist,) a bridge, a saw-mill and a starch-factory. There are also a grist-mill and a saw-mill still higher up the river. Phillips possesses a productive soil, superior advantages in water power and is so situated as to command the most of the trade and other business of the interior of the county; and such is the policy pursued by their business men that the inhabitants find a ready cash market for all their surplus seed, wool, and most other articles.—The most prominent religious societies are the Methodist and Freewill-Baptist; the Congregationalists have a church. Population in 1840 1,312—Polls 226. Berlin had 442 inhabitants and 78 polls, which have mostly been added to Phillips. The valuation of Phillips in 1842 was \$166,770, and that of Berlin \$28,220, a large proportion of which has also passed to Phillips.

#### WELD.

Weld, formerly known as No. 5, or Webb's-Pond Plantation, is a large town, containing about 48 square miles, and is about ten miles from the Court-House in Farmington. It was settled about 1800. Nath'l Kirtledge, Caleb Holt, James Houghton, Abel Holt, and Joseph and Abel Russell were among the first settlers. There is a considerable village on the eastern side of Webb's-Pond, on the Coos-Road, known as Holt's-Village, where there are two or three traders, a good grist-mill, a blacksmith's-shop, tannery, carding-machine, and



several good dwelling-houses. About two miles above, on the same road, there is another village, containing a town-house, starch-factory, saw-mill, store and blacksmith's-shop.\*

#### KINGFIELD.

Kingfield was formerly Plantation No. 3, Range 1, Bingham's-Purchase, and was surveyed by Solomon Adams in 1808. Settlements commenced about 1806.-- It was incorporated Jan. 24, 1816. Its name was selected in honor of Hon. William King, the first governor of Maine, a principal proprietor. It is situated about

\*Webb's-Pond is a considerable body of water included in Weld. Webb's River rises from this pond, and running southerly through Carthage, falls into the Androscoggin at Dixfield-Village. The land around the pond is level, but ranges of mountains hem it in and impart a picturesque and romantic aspect to the landscape scene. On the south is seen Bear-Mountain in Carthage, on the east Mount-Blue, the summit of which is 2360 feet above Webb's-Pond, and nearly 4000 feet above the sea; on the north is Mount-Metalic, which takes its name from an Indian who formerly inhabited it; and on the west is Ben-Nevis. Weld, as well as several adjoining towns, was surveyed by Samuel Titcomb Esq., surveyor to the state. It was lotted by Phillip Bullen in 1797, and originally purchased of the state by Jonathan Phillips of Boston, together with Temple, Avon, Phillips, Madrid, and Carthage. Sales to settlers were commenced by Jacob Abbot Esq. of Wilton, N. H., who moved to Andover, Mass., and from there to Brunswick in this state,—who acted as agent for Phillips for some years. But in 1815 he purchased, in company with Benjamin Weld, of Boston, Mr. P's unsold lands in Maine. Mr. Abbot proceeded to the settlement of this and other towns, and procured the location of the Coos-Road, by the state, from Chesterville, through Wilton, Carthage and Weld, passing the notch by Mount-Metalic, thence through Byron, and East-Andover, to New-Hampshire. Mr. Abbot died at Brunswick, in 1820, aged 74. He was succeeded by his son, the late Jacob Abbot Esq. who died in Farmington, Jan. 21, 1847, at the age of 70, (subsequently to the date at which the title-page and first sheets of this work were printed.) Mr. Abbot, as a man of business, was prompt and systematic, as a Christian, devoted, and as a citizen, honest, pleasant, generous, useful, and respected. Weld was incorporated Feb. 2, 1816, and derived its name from Mr. Weld, then one of the owners. B. Weld was followed by his son William, who took the whole of Carthage, and one half of the remaining towns, and subsequently conveyed to Dr. Lafayette Perkins, who settled in Weld in 1815, being the first physician in the place. A Congregational church was early organized in the town, of which David Sterret was the first pastor. He was succeeded by Hermon Stinson. Rev. Mr. Gould is the present pastor. They have a convenient meeting-house in the eastern part of the town. Rev. Lemuel Jackson, from Green, opened a religious meeting in 1804, and a Baptist church was constituted in 1809; Abel Holt and Amariah Reed, deacons. The latter was ordained an evangelist in 1811. Mr. Jackson remained till 1823. Various preachers have since labored in the place. Luther Perkins is the present pastor. 200 members have been received, and about one fourth of that number remain. A small Freewill-Baptist church has been

20 miles from Farmington, in a direction nearly north. It is watered by the Seven-Mile-Brook, two branches of which meet near the south-east corner of the town, where mills were early put in operation, and where there is a considerable village. It has no meeting-house, but meetings are sustained a part of the time, by most of the religious societies, and several churches have been organized. Population in 1840; 671; number of polls 112; valuation in 1842, \$64,171.

## SALEM.

The town of Salem was formed of parts of Freeman, Phillips, and No. 4 in the 1st Range, Bingham's-Purchase, or the "Million-Acres," and was incorporated in 1823, by the name of North-Salem, which was afterwards changed by leaving off the "North." It is drained by the westerly branch of the Seven-Mile-Brook, which empties into the Kennebec at Anson. It lies about 15 miles northerly from the Court-House in Farmington. Benjamin Heath 2d, from Farmington, made the first "chopping," about 1815, where he and John Church 1st, and Samuel Church removed in 1817, and who, with Messrs. Double and Hayford, who moved in the same season, were the first settlers in the place. The mills were put in operation by the Messrs. Heaths in 1818-19, when Benjamin Heath 1st and Simeon A. Heath moved into the place. The town is very conveniently situated, has a free and productive soil, and a valuable mill privilege where there is a village containing two stores, a saw-mill, grist-mill, starch-factory, pot-ash, and various mechanics. Population in 1840, 561; polls, 82; valuation in 1842, \$39,381. The inhabitants have no meeting-house, but meetings on the Sabbath are sustained a part of the time, principally by the Methodists and Freewill-Baptists.

## CARTHAGE.

Carthage, formerly No. 4, Abbot's-Purchase, lies

south of Weld, and west of Wilton and Temple, and was incorporated in 1829. It is drained by Webb's-River, which runs southerly. The eastern part of the town is broken by quite a range of mountains, variously denominated the Bear, Saddleback, or Blueberry-Mountain, but it has a considerable quantity of land fit for cultivation. The town formerly had extensive forests of pine. William Bowley and — Winter were the first who settled in the town, and the former of whom built what are called Bowley's-Mills, on Webb's-River. The town was lotted by Solomon Adams, in 1803. Dr. Perkins, of Farmington, is now the proprietor of the unsold lands. Population in 1840, 522; Polls; 91; valuation in 1842, \$41,235.

## MADRID.

Madrid is something more than 20 miles, in a direction about north-west, from the Court-House in Farmington. The township was formerly owned by Mr. Phillips, and subsequently passed into the hands of Jacob Abbot, whose heirs still own the unsettled land, amounting to nearly half the township, and some of which is unfit for cultivation. Settlements were commenced about 1807 or 1808. Abel Cook, David Ross John Sargent, Lemuel Plummer, Miller Hinkley, Joseph Dunham, Ebenezer Cawkins, and Nath'l Wells were some of the first settlers. Madrid has three saw-mills, a grist-mill, two clapboard-machines, two shingle-machines, but no house for public worship. Meetings are held in school-houses, and though the town is but partially settled, the inhabitants have sustained stated meetings on the Sabbath, most of the time from the commencement of the settlement.\* Population in 1840, 368; polls, 64; valuation in 1842, \$21,181.

\* A Freewill-Baptist church was early organized. Elder Joseph Dyer of Phillips, although at an advanced age, has gratuitously taken the oversight of the church, and preached with them the most of the time for about 14 years.

## REMARKABLE INCIDENTS.

78-

1781. First families moved into Farmington, and first saw-mill built.  
 1782. Stephen Titcomb born Nov. 14, being the first white child born in town, and first grist-mill built.  
 1785. Great freshet in October.  
 1786. William Thorn died in the fall, being the first death.  
 1790. Town purchased of the State.  
 1794. Town incorporated February 1st. Frost, on the 16th of June, killed all the corn in the low lands.  
 1795. Great winter freshet in January broke up the Kennebec and Sandy-river, and caused much damage at Hallowell. Bread scarce in consequence of frost.  
 1799. Great freshet 8th June. Remarkably wet season.  
 1800. Bread very scarce.  
 1801. Washburn drowned at the center of the town, found April 21 near James Butterfield's.  
 1804. Dysentery prevailed, very mortal, from 30 to 40 died.  
 1806. Sept. 10, frost killed the corn; none ripe; some saved on the high lands. June 16th, great eclipse of the sun.  
 1808. Corn killed by the frost in some places.  
 1810. Cold Friday January 19.  
 1814. Cold or typhus fever first appeared and prevailed to the greatest extent in this and adjacent towns.  
 1816. Cold season; very little corn raised.  
 1817. Great scarcity of bread.  
 1820. Great freshet in October; water rose 17 feet.  
 1825. Dysentery prevailed the second time; not so mortal.  
 1828. March 20, Caleb Sprague killed by a fall from his wagon, aged 73.  
 1830. William Tilton died, aged 95 years.  
 1831. Joseph Fairbanks, 1st, killed by falling from his wagon, in Augusta, September 12th.  
 1832. In June, the Asiatic cholera made its appearance in Quebec and Montreal, and soon after in the United States.  
 1833. November 4, Solomon Adams killed by being thrown from his carriage in Vienna.  
 1836. January 29th, Dinah June died, aged 104 years.  
 1838. County of Franklin organized.  
 1846. August 8, tremendous hail storm in the easterly part of the town; more water fell than was ever known in town in the same space of time; crops much injured.

NUMBER OF POLLS AND INHABITANTS OF FARMINGTON,  
 AND AMOUNT OF VALUATION.

Years.	No. of Polls.	No. of Inhabitants.	Amount of Valuation.
1790.		494	
1794.	136		\$24,183
1800.	218	942	58,652
1810.	279	1639	93,761
1820.	320	1938	115,462
1830.	397	2341	161,789
1840.	452	2613	462,375

Valuation raised to cash value.









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